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No. 918

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BRIEFS

NEPAL TRADE WITH BANGLADESH--Kathmandu, August 5--Nepal's export to Bangladesh totalled 122 million and 308 thousand rupees in fiscal year 1978/79, it is learnt from the Trade Promotion Centre, reports RSS. Import from Bangladesh during the period stood at 2 million and 34 thousand rupees. Lentil, rice and railway sleepers are this country's major export items to Bangladesh. Nepal mainly imports newsprint from Bangladesh. Details of Nepal-Bangladesh trade of the last fiscal year will be known later. According to the exporters, this country's export to Bangladesh is expected to rise in the current fiscal year. /Text/ /Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 6 Aug 80 p 1/

INDIAN RESIDENTS IN NEPAL--The number of Indians living in Nepal has reached three million 800 thousand. Pointing this out, a PTI news carried by the Times of India of August 5 stated that of the 142 countries in the world, 17 had Indian populations of over 100 thousand. The news states that outside India there are more Indians living in Nepal than in any other country. Nepal's population last year was 13 million 713 thousand.-RSS /Text/ /Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 7 Aug 80 p 1/

CSO: 4220

PERTH TERRORISM TALKS SHROUDED IN SECRECY

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Jul 80 p 17

[Text] Delegates at top-level talks in Perth on terrorism have agreed that there has to be a balance between the right of the news media to provide information and the need to preserve security.

There was a shroud of secrecy over the talks, which ended yesterday.

A statement said: "The public generally needs to be aware that in any terrorist situation the safety of hostages is of paramount concern.

"Their lives and the lives of police and other citizens should not be put in further jeopardy by the premature release of information which could be vital.

"The police can best protect the lives of hostages by maintaining control of the surrounding area to reduce the risk of terrorists being panicked into action.

"This means that members of the public have a responsibility to keep away from the scene at all times."

The statement said that the important subject of liaison between counter-terrorist authorities and the news media had been discussed at the conference, which was held at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, over the past two weeks.

The conference had recognised that the news media had a vital role in providing information to the public.

But there had been concern at the way this information had sometimes been presented in the past.

The conference had recognised the need for action to establish a continuing high-level working relationship with the news media on the terrorism issue.

The statement said that a number of significant factors relating to the management of a terrorist incident had been raised at the conference.

Work would continue through the standing advisory committee on Commonwealth-State cooperation for protection against violence to resolve particular issues where necessary.

The conference was attended by representatives of all States, the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory.

Delegates included police, senior government officials and defence force and Australian Security Intelligence Organisation representatives.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO VANUATU--The Australian Government says it will offer more noncombat military assistance to the Vanuatu Government. The foreign minister, Mr Peacock, and the defense minister, Mr Killen, said the Royal Australian Air Force would provide planes to transport food and other supplies to the secessionist island of Espiritu Santo in response to a request from the Vanuatu Government. The ministers said regular internal services by Air Melanesia were not sufficient to carry the food, medicines and educational equipment urgently needed now that the blockade on Santo had been lifted. The ministers said prompt deliveries of the supplies would help restore normal conditions on the island. [Text] [OW151759 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1130 GMT 15 Aug 80]

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT SA/S POWER TO BE RETURNED TO VILLAGES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Jun 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman on Monday announced that all the 88 thousand villages of the country will soon have Swanirvar Gram Sarkars (village government).

He said that the concept of Swanirvar Gram Sarkar aimed at restoration of power to the villagers usurped by the colonial masters to perpetuate their rule. "Foreign domination exists no more. Rule of the people has been established. We are to return power to the villagers now," he said.

President Zia was inaugurating the two-day training course of the first batch of the gram pradhans (head of a gram sarkar) and member-secretaries of the Gram Sarkars at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises.

Organized by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, the inaugural function was also addressed by Minister Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury and Secretary of the Ministry, Mr Anisuzzaman.

President Ziaur Rahman said that with the training of the first batch of the representatives of Gram Sarkar the country was going to witness a new movement and a new revolution.

Victims of Exploitation

Describing the villages as victims of years of exploitation and negligence, President Zia said that the colonial rulers not only deprived the villagers of their powers, they also made all efforts to keep them in darkness. They knew that they could not rule over a conscious rural society, and to perpetuate their hegemony they created an urban-based 'zamindar' class who carried out endless exploitation.

The President said that although our villages were rich with abundant resources, no sense of direction was provided to them to properly utilise the same and shape their lives in a decent way. "Our villagers have eyes but they cannot see. They have ears but they cannot hear and they have tongues but they cannot talk. They have no organisation and no unity and these are the problem," he said.

Ostracise the touts

President Zia said that there were forces including some political parties who did not want the villagers to be united because that would see an end of the preponderance of the touts. "They do not like leadership of the villagers because they will not be able to befool the reawakened masses. But we are determined to ostracise the touts," he said.

President Zia said that Bangladesh had enormous resources in the shape of land, water and labour. A coordinated and planned utilisation of these resources would yield miracles for our economy, he said.

Basic Duties

The President said that the Gram Sarkars had four basic duties to perform. These are raising of food production, removal of illiteracy, control of popula on explosion and maintenance of law and order locally.

Elaborating the duties of the Gram Sarkars, the President said that raising of an aftercrop was essential to meet the country's food deficit. "We have fertile land and raising of a second crop will not be very difficult," he said.

President Zia said that in order to have more food, all cultivable lands must be brought under plough and irrigational facilities must be provided to such lands.

President Zia urged the villagers to raise the production of wheat and cotton so that the country would be self-sufficient in food and cloth.

Curse of Illiteracy

Emphasising the need for removing the curse of illiteracy from the country, President Zia called upon the Gram Sarkars to play a pioneering role in this respect. He made a fervent call to the educated section in the villages to make a positive contribution to this effort.

Referring to the population boom, President Zia said that the population of the country must be kept within 10 crore during the next 20 years and be reduced further later. Urging the Gram Sarkars to make the villagers realise the significance of population control, the President said that even our religion prohibited birth of a child when the parents could not rear them properly. He called upon the Gram Sarkars to carry out a relentless education programme in this field.

Law and Order

Referring to the local law and order situation, the President said that since the villagers knew the local miscreants it would be easy for them to locate these people. The miscreants were to be punished by mobilising public opinion against them.

He said that in order to further improve the law and order situation in the villages, the number of Village Defence Party members would be raised from 15 lakhs to one crore by this year. These members, mostly youths, would also be utilised for development activities, he said.

The President explained the concept of Bangladeshi nationalism which he termed as an ideology with its roots in the soil of Bangladesh. "It is the manifestation of a political and economic programme aimed at the welfare of the people of Bangladesh."

Halim Chowdhury

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Abdul Halim Chowdhury said that the creation of the Gram Sarkars was an indication that a revolution could not be imposed from the top, rather it must have it roots in the villages.

He said that besides performing four specified jobs, the Gram Sarkars would also work to mobilise savings at the local level. He said that within the next financial year cooperative banks would be set up at the village level to help Gram Sarkars in this respect.

Five gram pradhans also narrated their experiences at the inaugural function. They are Mr Kafiludoin Ahmed of Tongibari under Dacca district, Mr Azhar Ali of village Dhaleswar under Atgharia police statio of Pabna district, Mr Arabinda Chakrabarty of village Baliapukur under Fultala police station of Khulna district, Mr Mohiuddin Ahmed of village Sreepur under Fulgazi thana of Noakhali district and Mr Abdul Mannan of village Salna under Dacca district.

In all 310 gram pradhans and member secretaries of different Gram Sarkars are participating in the training course.

CSO: 4220

REORGANIZATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION ORDERED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 24 Jun 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman has directed immediate reorganisation of the Planning Commission for the successful implementation of the country's ambiguous Second Five-Year Plan reports BSS.

The directives came during a high-level meeting held in Dacca on Monday morning at the Planning Commission at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar with President Ziaur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting was attended among others by establishment Minister Mahdul Haque, Presidential adviser Dr M. N. Huda Planning Minister Dr Fasih-uddin Mahtab and other high officials of the Planning Commission.

The meeting discussed in length the proposed reorganisation which has become necessary for achieving the plan target.

During the meeting the President stressed the need for effective policy planning and research activities of the Planning Commission. It was also decided to start immediately the training of the personnel of the Planning Commission.

The meeting laid special emphasis on the coordination between the Planning Commission and other related ministries under the proposed reorganisation scheme so that the pace of implementation of the plan is speeded up.

CSO: 4220

PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE ACADEMY OUTLINED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 80 pp 1, 12

[Text] Chittagong, June 22: Capt. (Rtd) Nurul Huq, Minister for Ports, Shipping and IWT said here today that an ambitious master plan was being prepared to cater to the overall requirements of the Marine Academy, reports BSS.

The plan being taken with the direct participation of the International Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) under the sponsorship of UNDP. When fully implemented, it will usher in a new era in the history of the development of the merchant shipping in Bangladesh, he added.

The Minister was addressing as chief guest at the passing out ceremony of the 15th batch cadets of the Marine Academy of Jauldia here.

Earlier the Minister reviewed the parade and took salute. The hillside Parade Ground of the Academy was echoed with thunderous applauses of a cheerful multi-national crowd who greeted the smartly turned out cadets as they passed by.

Capt. (Rtd) Huq pointed out that the Secretary General of the IMCO and several advisers of the organisation have already visited the Academy to help prepare the master plan while the UNDP has already assured to provide instructors and necessary equipment to the Academy in this connection.

Besides, he said the government of Norway is expected to provide the Academy with equipment worth Taka several crore.

The Minister observed that with the implementation of the master plan our Marine Cadets will no longer be required to go abroad for higher training for Master Mariner, Chief Engineer, Second Engineer, etc.

Moreover, arrangements are being made for holding 2nd mate and 2nd engineer examinations within the country, he said adding that it will help saving huge foreign exchange.

Turning to our national flag carrier the Minister disclosed that the present fleet of 26 will be increased. In this connection he referred that our existing ships, carried only 23.58 percent of our total import and 11 percent of total export during the year 1978-79. But he said that as per international rule our ships should carry 40 percent of our total import and export cargoes.

In his address of welcome Capt. Zakaria, Commandant of the Academy said that with the beginning of the next year the Academy will be able to introduce 50 percent of the DOT courses which will enable our cadets to acquire 2nd mate and 2nd engineer certificate without going abroad as they have to do now.

Earlier the Minister distributed medals and prizes among the recipients. Senior Cadet Captain Ahmed Ruhullah was awarded President's Gold Medal for best allround performances. He also received three more medals including BSC special prize for best allround cadet Senior Cadet Mahmudur Rahman won BSC Prize and Academy Prize for obtaining highest marks. Cadet Capt. Syed Habib Muhammad Dehlavi was awarded Academy Prize for best allround player, Senior Cadet Capt. Md. Mukul Hossain won Minister's Silver Medal for best engineer cadet while Ministry's Silver Medal for best nautical cadet went to Senior Cadet Md. Shahidul Islam.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

BNP LONDON CONFERENCE--London, June 22 --A conference of Bangladesh National Party held here yesterday discussed organisational and other related "matters of the party," reports BSS. The five-hour long conference unanimously supported the peaceful revolution launched by President Ziaur Rahman and expressed their total support, confidence and "faith in his leadership." The whole of UK has been divided into four political zones for organisational purposes they are Greater London Area, Greater Manchester Area, Birmingham and adjoining area and the North East of UK. A large number of political workers and leaders attended the conference. Deputy Minister for Food Mr Iqbal Hossain, Col. (Rtd) Oli Ahmed MP, Mr Lutfur Rahman MP and Mrs Fatima Chowdhury MP, and Mr Haris, a BNP leader from Sylhet were present in the meeting. It was also decided in the meeting that Mr Lutfur Rahman and Mrs Fatima Chowdhury would visit some of the zonal headquarters for organisational purposes. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Jun 80 p 12]

CSO: 4220

PLANNED EXPORT TARGETS FOR 1980-1981 NOTED

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 20 Aug 80 p 5

/Editorial: "To Meet Export Targets"/

/Text/

AN export target of K 3,169.5 million has been set for 1980-81, the third year of the Third Four-Year Plan.

As part of the on-going measures for achieving the economic plan targets set for this year, earnest efforts are being made to push up production in all sectors and to diversify exports.

Just as steps are being taken to increase agricultural production through the special high-yield cultivation projects, adoption of scientific methods of cultivation, and diversification of crops among others, equal attention is being paid to livestock and fisheries development.

This is natural in view of the fact that the meat and fish sector has also become an important source of foreign exchange earner. This becomes apparent when we consider that export earnings from the meat and fish sector have been increasing from year to year—from K 4.3 million in 1975-76 to K 56.8 million in 1978-79, according to published figures.

For purposes of boosting marine products the Fisheries Development Project is being implemented with help from international agencies and friendly nations

for increasing fish production not only for meeting domestic consumption needs but also for boosting exports. As part of the on-going measures, Burma recently signed a loan agreement with the Government of Denmark which is to provide about K40.67 million for the implementation of the Fisheries Development Project.

Such measures aimed at increasing the country's fleet of modern trawlers and fishing facilities and expanding fishery works are welcome in view of the fact that there is a growing demand for fish here in Burma as well as in many other countries.

As Burmese fish and other marine products are proving to be increasingly popular abroad, there is need for exerting all-out efforts to systematically exploit Burma's vast untapped fish resources and exploit the market situation.

In this connection, it is worth remembering that the present market trend is on quality whether this be in agricultural, fish and meat or any other export items. It is thus essential that we pay special attention to improve the quality of our products. This is vital if we are to make meaningful gains for our long-term economic interest.

Under such circumstances, we expect that all those involved in the livestock and fisheries development activities will spare no efforts to increase fish and meat production according to plan and contribute towards the achievement of the overall export targets set for the third year of the Third Four-Year Economic Plan.

CSO: 4220

BCP, PEOPLE IN ARAKAN STATE WILL CONTINUE STRUGGLE

BK131201 Voice of the People of Burma [Clandestine] ir Burmese to Burma 0030 GMT 13 Aug 80

[Unattributed article: "Let Us Continue To Maintain and Hold High the Glorious Revolutionary Tradition of the Arakanese People"]

[Text] Arakan State, situated on the westernmost sea cost of Burma became the first Burmese territory to fall into the hands of British imperialism. After British imperialism took over Arakan State to exploit its people, the Arakanese took up arms and revolted against the imperialists since they did not want to be enslaved.

The peasant uprisings which began as a determination not to become slaves of imperialism, frightened the imperialists. However, due to a lack of correct leadership and correct guidance, the uprisings failed.

In order to prolong their rule and influence in Arakan State, the British imperialists continued to maintain feudalism and landlordism and also nurtured the landlord class and used it to prop them up. The peasants became poorer with each passing day because of the high farm rents, high-interest loans and oppression and exploitation by imperialism. The traditional farmland belonging to Arakanese farmers fell into the hands of landlords and big entrepreneurs while the peasants became hired farmhands and some worked rented land. Arakan nationals who suffered under the exploitation of feudal-landlordism were opposed to feudal-landlordism.

Before World War II, the Arakanese people under the great banner of the All-Arakan National Organization led by Arkanese petty bourgeoisie, joined hands with the oppressed people of all nationalities throughout the country and took part in the frontline of the struggles to oppose imperialism and feudal-landlordism.

During World War II, the Japanese fascists entered Burma and mercilessly brutalized and oppressed the people of all nationalities in Burma. The Arkanese people, who possessed a will to oppose oppression, started an armed struggle against fascist Japanese in January 1945.

After World War II, British imperialism once again came back to Burma. Then also, the Arakanese people under the Antifascist People's Freedom League [AFPFL] actively took part in the anti-imperialist struggle. When the AFPFL leaders betrayed the country, negotiated with British imperialism and declared independence, the Arakanese people realized from their lifetime experience that the independence declared was not total. For this reason, the Arakanese people rallied under the leadership of the proletarian front--The Burma Communist Party [BCP] - Arakan State--to demand for total independence.

At that time, the AFPFL government began to attack and oppress the movement and therefore, the Arakanese people, taking up whatever arms they could find, started a violent armed struggle under the BCP-Arakan State, leadership. The demand by the Arakan nationals was to establish a people's democratic state free from the three evil "isms"--imperialism, feudal-landlordism and bureaucrat capitalism--and based on unity and equality among all nationals.

From this experience, the Arakanese people understood that their wish could only be fulfilled with the leadership of the BCP. This is because there was once a political party led by bourgeois Arakan nationalists who put up a grand display of their slogan which called for the establishment of the Arakan People's Democratic Republic, and who instigated and recruited Arakan nationals under their slogan. However, such parties ultimately bowed down before the enemy, surrendered and were thrown off the stage of history.

For this reason, it is very evident that what the people want cannot be obtained through the leadership of the nationalists and petty bourgeoisie.

In order to break the Arakanese people's revolutionary spirit and their tradition of never bowing down before injustice and oppression, successive reactionary rulers resorted to burning villages, mass arrests and the jailing of peasants, massacres of whole villages and even bloody slaughter of many people in cities--as in Akyab where many were killed because they demanded rice.

Reactionaries, true to their nature of approaching things metaphysically, thought that if they committed merciless and vicious crimes against the Arakanese people they would be able to break the revolutionary spirit and tradition of the people. However, the Arakanese people, who have a glorious revolutionary tradition and spirit and heroic determination, became even more enraged at successive reactionary rulers, including the Ne Win-San Yu military government--who represent the three evil "isms"--and their revolutionary will became stronger. This shows that the metaphysical approach of the reactionaries is erroneous.

The Arakanese people well understand from their life experience that without the BCP-Arakan State, and the people's army under the direct and unreserved leadership of the party, there can be no political status

for them. For this reason, the Arkanese people did whatever they could to encourage and support the growth of the party and the people's army. Moreover, they continue to wage all forms of struggle which supplement the armed struggle being waged by the people's army.

The Arakanese people infinitely detest and are enraged at the betrayers of the people who genuflect, bow down and surrender to the enemy. They vigorously excoriate the turncoats who surrender. These actions show the revolutionary tradition of the Arakanese people who never bow down before the enemy.

The BCP-Arakan State, and the members of the people's army firmly adhere to the good, revolutionary tradition of the people and are, to this day, continuing the struggle against the Ne Win-San Yu military government. There were many commanders, cadres and combatants who sacrificed their lives during the struggle for the party, revolution and the people because they did not want to bow down before the enemy. Comrade (Maung Baw), aged 73, member of the Akyab District Party Committee, who was a great revolutionary, is a good example to cite.

Comrade (Maung Baw) lost his sight while carrying out the tasks of the revolution. Despite being blind, he continued carrying out the revolutionary tasks for the liberation of the people. One day, in a clash with the enemy, Comrade (Maung Baw) was wounded. Comrade (Maung Baw) first destroyed the party funds he was carrying so that they would not fall in the hands of the enemy. Then he took his own life with his own revolver.

All the comrades in the party, commanders and combatants have pledged to learn from the communist, heroic and iron-clad will of Comrade (Maung Baw) and to continue fighting the enemy without bowing down. Despite the many difficulties and hardships, cadres, members and combatants of the BCP-Arakan state, are continuing their struggle with the will of Comrade (Maung Baw).

On the 41st founding anniversary of the party on 15 August 1980, whatever difficulties may lie ahead, all the members of the BCP-Arakan State, the Communist Youth League and the People's Army will definitely make firm pledges to continue their march and to wage the armed revolution until final victory by relying on the Arakanese people, who possess a glorious tradition, and by maintaining and upholding the glorious revolutionary tradition, spirit and courage of the Arakanese people.

CSO: 4211

BCP MARKS 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING

BK150914 Voice of the People of Burma [Clandestine] in Burmese to Burma 0030 GMT 15 Aug 80

[Unattributed article: "Have Faith in the People; Believe in the Party--These are the Two Basic Principles"]

[Text] The Burma Communist Party [BCP] is 41 years old on 15 August 1980. Throughout these 41 years, many comrade martyrs have sacrificed their lives and blood for the cause of the people's democratic revolution. We humbly salute these comrade martyrs.

The 41-year history of the BCP is a history of courageous struggle against imperialism, fascism and reaction for the liberation of the people; of waging the revolution with the spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle, fearing neither hardship nor death; and of advancement and development while overcoming obstacles and twists and turns along the way. Likewise, the future of the BCP will definitely be a future of struggle, revolution and advancement and development while overcoming obstacles.

Throughout the political history of Burma, no other political party has been oppressed as violently as the BCP, and no other party has succeeded in overcoming so many obstacles and difficulties through struggle. The BCP has marched forward while traversing a most difficult and arduous path in the past 41 years, showing unique courage and determination. This achievement is due to two basic principles:

1. Have faith in the people; and,

2. Believe in the party.

BCP members, who are historical materialists, believe without reservation that the people want to be liberated, want to make revolution, love justice, possess an inexhaustible source of creativity and are the makers of history. In reality also, the Burmese people have brilliantly waged struggles for justice throughout successive eras.

BCP members also believe without reservation that the BCP is the sole party for the proletariat in Burma, the leading party of the revolution in Burma, and the party which accepts Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought as its basic ideology, constantly struggles against and cleanses itself of left and right opportunism, struggles against dogmatism and empiricism wherever they emerge while mainly fighting revisionism, practices proletarian internationalism and revolutionary patriotism, possesses a good and glorious tradition, and so forth.

The path along which we must march will not be straight or smooth; it will be rough, difficult and strewn with twists and turns and ups and downs. Whatever it may be, if we firmly adhere to the two principles of having faith in the people and believing in the party we shall overcome all difficulties and ultimately win victory.

CSO: 4211

NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR APPOINTED

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 18 Aug 80 p 1

[Text]

RANGOON, 18 Aug—An agreement has been accorded to the proposed appointment of Mr Aziz Nour El-Din as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma in succession to His Excellency Mr Fathi Hussein Kamel.

Born in 1929, Mr Aziz Nour El-Din graduated from the Military Academy in 1948, and obtained the Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1956. Mr Aziz Nour El Din served in the Armed Forces of the Arab Republic of Egypt before joining the Egyptian Foreign Service, as First Secretary in 1960. He was promoted to the rank of Ambassador in January 17, 1980.

Mr Aziz Nour El-Din has previously served in the Egyptian missions in Port Sudan, Khartoum, Islamabad, and Baghdad. At present he is serving in the Arab Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cairo.

He has received the Decoration of the Republic, Second Grade, from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mr Aziz Nour El-Din is married and has three children.—*NAB*

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

DANISH LOAN FOR FISHERIES--Rangoon, 18 Aug--Dr Maung Shein, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance and Mr Palle Marker, Charge d'Affaires ai of the Royal Danish Embassy, Bangkok, today signed an agreement concerning a Danish Government Loan of 35 million Danish Kroner (about Kyat 40.67 million). The loan carries no interest and the repayment period will be 35 years including a grace period of 10 years. The loan will be used for the implementation of the Fisheries Development Project, under the People's Pearl and Fisheries Corporation which includes the procurement of one fishery inspection vessel.--NAB /Text/ /Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 19 Aug 80 p 1/

APPOINTMENT OF ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR--Rangoon, 20 Aug--The Government of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma have agreed to the appointment of Mr Jonuz Mersini as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania to the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. Mr Jonuz Mersini was born in 1922. After joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1954, he served as Counsellor in Rome and Minister Counsellor of the Albanian Mission to the United Nations in New York. On his return to Albania, he was appointed Press Director as well as Counsellor for Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 1979 Mr Jonuz Mersini has been serving as Albanian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China with resident in Beijing.--NAB /Text/ /Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 20 Aug 80 p 1/

ANOTHER FREIGHTER FOR FIVE STAR LINE--Rangoon, 19 Aug--A 12,000-ton freighter Sittway built in the Federal Republic of Germany for the Burma Five Star Shipping Corporation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, arrived at the Rangoon Port this afternoon. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Saw Hla Pru, Managing Director of the Burma Five Star Shipping Corporation U Shwe Than, Managing Director of the Ports Corporation Cmdr Tin Maung Soe (BN) and officials inspected the vessel. The freighter laden to capacity with cargo from Poland, Federal Republic of Germany, Holland and Britain was brought by captain U Zaw Win, chief engineer U Myo Thein and a Burmese crew. The 439 foot long vessel with a draught of 27 feet and two inches was bought for K 107 million and is similar to Maw-la-myaing bought in 1979.--NAB /Text/ /Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 20 Aug 80 p 1/

CSO: 4220

WEST GERMAN AID REPORTEDLY STAGNATES

Madras THE HINDU in English 25 Jun 80 p 7

[Text]

BONN, June 25.

The Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to give a DM 380 millions financial assistance to India for the year 1980-81.

This was stated here after talks between the representatives of the two countries. The Indian delegation was represented by the Joint-Secretary Mr. Sivaraman and Mr. Dhawan the Joint-Director in the Department of Economics in the Ministry of Finance.

The financial assistance is largely to be utilised for projects agreed to by the two countries. Projects involving the production of electricity and drinking water found primary importance during the negotiations. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu was specially mentioned in this connection. The German aid is also to be channelled to the development banks (ICICI, IFC and NSIC) and for the funding of an Agricultural Bank.

German aid to India is stagnating in the last five years. Whereas in 1975-76 West Germany gave DM 368 millions aid to India, a year later in 1976-77 it came down to DM 342 millions. Since then India has been seeking an increase in the quantum of aid.

The German side, however, argued that inspite of the stagnation in aid to India, New Delhi was still the single largest recipient of Bonn's official development aid.

The Indo-German ad hoc committee which is to meet in December in New Delhi, may take up the matter of bilateral economic assistance and investment as well as assistance to the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant and the Paradeep Project. Expert-teams of the both countries have already started meeting each other to finalise the details of the steel plant.

CSO: 4220

MEETING PLANS STEPS TO BOOST BANGLADESH TRADE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jun 80 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, June 24 (UNI): India showed interest in entering into long-term arrangement for the purchase of newsprint from Bangladesh in the five-day Indo-Bangladesh trade talks which concluded here today.

The Bangladesh side said that this matter would be considered.

The Indian delegation was led by Mr A. S. Gill, commerce secretary, and the Bangladesh delegation by Mr Matiur Rahman, Bangladesh commerce secretary.

The talks were in accordance with the existing trade agreement between the two countries. The talks reviewed the trade between the two countries in detail. Both sides agreed to take necessary steps for further development and diversification of trade. In this connection, the need for increasing trade in the existing items as well as exploring new items was emphasised.

With a view to increasing the trade turnover between the two countries and to promote economic and industrial cooperation, export-oriented projects such as manufacture of sponge iron, urea, fertiliser and newsprint, paper and paper pulp were identified with prospects of exports to India.

The other important areas identified for industrial cooperation related to the development of machine tools, agri-based rural industries, and other small-scale industries. Both sides agreed to examine the possibilities of cooperation in this field.

Bangladesh pointed out that against the stipulated quantity of 12,000 tonnes of newsprint under two separate contracts, Bangladesh had already supplied 10,836 tonnes so far and the balance would be shipped shortly.

CSO: 4220

PAKISTANI VISITORS SAID TO OVERSTAY VISAS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 80 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, June 22 (PTI): About 20 percent of Pakistani nationals who were issued visas in 1979 did not return after visiting India, according to a study made by the Indian embassy here.

The number of Indian nationals who were issued visas and did not return home before the end of the year was a comparatively small eight percent, the study revealed.

The figures released by the Indian embassy prove how incorrect have been some recent reports in the Pakistani press that one-fourth of Indians coming to Pakistan do not return home and stay on in this country illegally.

A Karachi newspaper, THE STAR, recently reported that during the last one year 45,000 Indian Muslims had stayed on illegally in the country.

These Muslims, the report said destroyed their Indian passports, secured Pakistani identity cards with the help of their friends and relations here or by bribes and some even procured Pakistani passports.

But the Indian embassy study of actual traffic of Indian and Pakistani nationals in 1979 through road, rail, air and sea routes revealed that there was a difference of only 7,578 between Indian nationals coming to Pakistan and returning to India.

While 85,110 Indian nationals came to Pakistan in 1979, those returning numbered 77,532. On the other hand, 270,354 Pakistanis went to India, but only 218,552 returned leaving a gap of 51,802.

Releasing the study results, the Indian embassy said that, keeping in view the humanitarian aspects, it had persevered in its liberal policy of granting visas despite the disparity.

It hoped that the figures would clear the air and would enable the authorities concerned to continue playing a positive role in furthering the objectives agreed to by India and Pakistan regarding travel between the two countries.

CSO: 4220

CONSULTANTS REPORT OUTLOOK FOR AFRICAN PROJECTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 80 p 5

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 22 (PTI).

A FIVE-member Indian consultancy delegation, which visited Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Nigeria, has reported good prospects for India's participation in industrial projects in those countries.

The fields identified by the delegation, jointly sponsored by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations and the International Trade Centre, include bridge construction, water containing the retaining structures, mini cement and fertiliser plants and a number of small-scale industries.

According to Dr. V. K. Raina, leader of the delegation, all the countries have severe constraints as regards foreign exchange. To get over these problems, he suggested that the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) could float soft loans for various projects on design-cum-construction package basis.

In the absence of such loaning facility, which was being made available by number of European organisations, the countries they visited were finding it difficult to collaborate with parties from India he said.

IMPORT PROGRAMME

The members of the delegation also suggested that the government of India should consider the possibility of promoting Indian entrepreneurs to have equity participation in joint ventures and turn-key projects in the region. The authorities in most of the countries visited clearly indicated that India would have considerable scope in the region if the government took a liberal view of equity participation.

They also felt that involving the region in India's import programme would help in the export of Indian products to the countries in the area.

Noting that the main competition in the region was from European parties, parucularly from Scandinavia, the United Kingdom and West Germany, the delegation said that Indian parties should examine the possibility of entering into sub-contracting of consultancy assignments with their European counterparts.

Besides, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations should open an office at a strategic location in the region for sustained contacts and on-the-spot immediate feed back. This, the delegation said, would be besides periodical visits by trade and consultancy teams for promoting exports of products and services from India.

The delegation found that the Indian missions in the region were of immense assistance, but suggested that the staff on the commercial side should be strengthened.

CSO: 4220

MODERNIZATION AID FOR NATIONAL POLICE FORCE ASKED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 12

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 22.—The National Police Commission has recommended extensive modernization of the police force and to that end a direct assistance of Rs 550 crores to the States in the next 10 years, reports UNI.

The commission says that there is an immediate need to harness scientists, engineers and modern technology to combat crime. Police must have computers to store data and its own telecommunication network. Its transport fleet should be suitably expanded.

The States must make their own substantial contributions. The Central aid should be utilised to acquire equipment, while the States should be responsible for buildings, salaries of staff and other recurring expenses.

The report has been prepared by a nine-member committee appointed by the commission, headed by Prof. S. Sampath, member of the Union Public Service Commission.

The report says that the police should take "full advantage of all the techniques of electronic data processing" and micro-film systems. A computerized teleprinter network should be set up and gradually be replaced by visual display units.

As for the Central assistance, it says that Rs 200 crores should be given for the expansion of the transport fleet, Rs 50 crores for computers and Rs 100 crores for acquisition of equipment and allied capital facilities. The funding should be on an year-to-year basis.

The report says that police forces in all the States have grown in strength and some States have more than 100,000 policemen.

The management of such a large number of people, "who are constantly deployed in sensitive and serious operational situations, often spread over a wide geographical areas, calls for the adoption of most modern techniques".

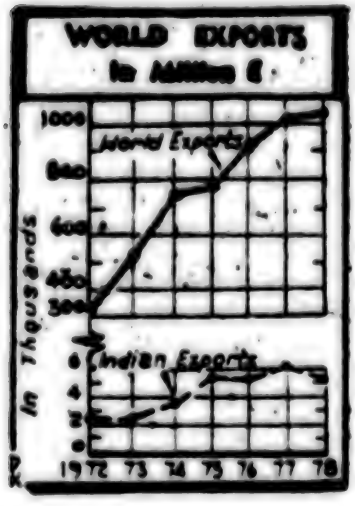
It quotes Prof. M. G. K. Menon, an eminent scientist, as saying that "in the field of computers, it will not be right for India to adopt the path of intermediate technology. We must instal and use the best systems that are available in the world today"

CSO: 4220

NEED FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK STRESSED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Jun 80 p 13

[Text] The Union Commerce Minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, is reported to have said recently that the Centre is planning to set up an export-import bank (exim-bank). When the long-term export policy is being so much talked about, the proposal has assumed considerable significance. Indeed an exim-bank should be set up and developed as an integral part of a long-term export policy. The earlier such a bank is set up, the better.



One of the principal reasons why Japan and West Germany could score above the USA in respect of exports was the extension of easy financial accommodation to purchasers. Exporters in these countries could offer long-term low-interest loans to their clients against such facilities from their exim-banks. Japan offers loan assistance in many cases carrying 2-1/2% interest rate repayable over 20 years, with a grace period of another 10 years. Similarly, West Germany has arranged for equally easy low-interest loans, although in their cases the period of repayments are shorter.

Admittedly, India cannot offer such terms to buyers abroad. Nontheless, the establishment of a full-fledged exim-bank could add to the financial set-up and would offer great help to the exporting community. Relative independence, adequate stature and initial capital stock are the prerequisites for effective functioning of an Indian exim-bank. Needless to say, the exim-bank must have the full backing of the Union Government.

The Centre could provide a minimum initial capital stock of Rs 100 crores to the proposed exim-bank out of the accumulated foreign exchange reserves. The bank could also be given powers to borrow to the extent of 10 times its capital stock in India and abroad. Another necessary condition for the success of such a venture is that the bank should be free to grant

loans to overseas buyers of capital goods and equipment from Indian exporters, as well as to raise financial resources from overseas markets if such methods of raising resources are found suitable.

While the financial input for raising exports should be well-cared, efforts should be made to develop the domestic production base so that there is an adequate exportable surplus on a continuous basis. In other words, production for exports has to be planned well in advance. At present, export efforts are only residual in nature. Like a self-sufficient village economy which did not bother much about producing a commercial surplus, we tend to export only if there is a surplus after meeting the domestic demand. On the contrary, like a modern market economy, India should try to produce for export.

Currently, no other industry excepting tea, is giving real attention to the development of capacity to meet the export needs. The tea industry has estimated that at the present rate of growth of domestic consumption, an internal production base of 1,400 million kg a year will have to be achieved if the country's present position as a premier tea exporters has to be maintained. The industry's present yearly production comes to around 560 million kg a year and by no means it is easy to raise production to this extent in about 20 years. However, the need for an effort to draw up such longterm plans could be undermined.

Thus, on a long-term perspective, the "export policy" should indeed be converted into a "export-cum-production policy." An extensive study should be conducted to identify commodities and initiate concrete plans to expand the production base of the exportable items to the level where the export surplus could be easily generated after meeting the domestic demand. In case of project exports and exports of consultancy services, the potential areas where Indian firms can operate should be identified and the internal consultancy organizations and construction units should be asked to tailor their facilities to suit the needs of the overseas clients.

Such a policy would go a long way to remove the basic uncertainty plagueing India's export efforts. In times of internal scarcity, many a time the Government had restricted exports which had not only blocked export of the commodity in question for time being but altogether destroyed the confidence of the overseas buyers.

The export market could be developed only if the overseas buyer were assured that there would be no sudden disruptions in supplies or timely deliveries. As a very telling example in this respect, one can mention the sharp drop in tea exports consequent upon the imposition of a duty of Rs 5 a kg on tea exports in the 1977-78 season. The duty was imposed by the then Commerce Minister to ensure adequate availability of tea at reasonable prices in the domestic market. The Minister even publicly hinted at the possibility of imposing a ceiling on tea exports. The immediate result was a drastic drop in tea exports from 229 million kg in 1977 to 1976 million kg in 1978.

Frequent changes in export incentives and procedures upset the calculations of the exporters and a long-term export policy cannot really go with frequent short-term changes in the procedural and fiscal framework within which the exporter has to work. Given the potentials of the country and its existing share in total world exports, there is no doubt that India's exports could be considerably stepped up over the next two decades.

CSO: 4220

FINANCE BILL MODIFIED TO FACILITATE EXPORTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jun 80 p 13

[Text] The following modification has been made in the latest Finance Bill relating to the export markets development allowance.

Under section 35B of the Income-tax Act, domestic companies and non-corporate taxpayers resident in India are entitled to a weighted deduction, in the computation of their taxable profits, at the rate of one and one-third times of the amount of the qualifying expenditure incurred by them on the development of export markets. The weighted deduction under this provision is allowed with reference to expenditure on the following activities:

(i) Advertisement or publicity outside India in respect of the goods, services or facilities dealt in or provided by the taxpayer in the course of his business.

(ii) Obtaining information regarding markets outside India for such goods, services or facilities.

(iii) Distribution, supply or provision outside India of such goods, services or facilities, where such expenditure is incurred before April 1, 1978. (Expenditure incurred in India in connection with these activities or expenditure (wherever incurred) on the carriage of such goods to their destination outside India or on the insurance of such goods while in transit is not taken into account for determining the qualifying amount of expenditure under this category. Expenditure incurred by a taxpayer engaged in the business of operating any ship, aircraft, etc., or the carriage of, or making arrangements for the carriage of, passengers, livestock, mail or goods, or in relation to such operations, carriage or arrangements is not regarded as expenditure incurred by the taxpayer on the supply outside India of services or facilities for the purposes of this provision.)

(iv) Maintenance outside India of a branch, office or agency for the promotion of the sale outside India of such goods, services or facilities.

(v) Preparation and submission of tenders for the supply of provision outside India of such goods, services or facilities, and activities incidental thereto.

(vi) Furnishing to a person outside India samples or technical information for the promotion of the sale outside India of such goods, services or facilities.

(vii) Travelling outside India for the pron ion of the sale outside India of such goods, services or facilities, including travelling outward from and return to India.

(viii) Performance of services outside India in connection with or incidental to the execution of any contract for the supply outside India of such goods, services or facilities.

(ix) Such other activities for the promotion of the sale outside India of such goods, services or facilities as may be prescribed.

The actual operation of this provision has revealed considerable misuse of this important tax concession by claiming a weighted deduction in respect of expenditure incurred in India on activities which had no direct relation with the basic objective of development of export markets. For example, a weighted deduction has been claimed in respect of expenditure on salary of Export Manager's driver, export staff salary and bonus paid in India, electricity charges, printing and stationery, postage, telegrams, telephone and telex charges incurred in India, exchange rate differences, etc. The claim for weighted deduction in respect of such items has led to considerable protracted litigation and resulted in loss of revenue.

Since the basic objective for the grant of a weighted deduction in respect of expenditure on development of export markets was primarily to provide an incentive for promoting exports on a continuing basis, it is proposed to limit the benefit of the weighted deduction only in respect of restricted categories of expenditure, namely:

(i) Advertisement or publicity outside India in respect of the goods, services or facilities which the taxpayer deals in or provides in the course of business.

(ii) Maintenance outside India of a branch, office or agency for the promotion of the sale outside India of such goods, services or facilities.

(iii) Travelling outside India for the promotion of the sale outside India of such goods, services or facilities including travelling outward from and return to India.

It has further been observed that certain tax payers who had engaged labour for construction projects outside India had claimed the benefit

of weighted deduction in respect of the cost of labour and raw materials incurred thereon. It was contended that such expenditure was incurred for the performance of services outside India in connection with or incidental to the execution of any contract for the supply outside India of such goods or such facilities. The grant of a weighted deduction of the cost of labour and raw materials would result in considerable reduction in taxable income and consequent enormous loss of revenue. Since the grant of such weighted deduction in these cases goes counter to the underlying intention, it is proposed to make an amendment to provide that any expenditure which, by its very nature, is debitable to the trading account or a manufacturing account of a business, such as wages to labourers, purchase of raw materials, carriage inward, etc., will not qualify for the weighted deduction.

These amendments will take effect from April 1, 1981 and will accordingly apply in relation to the assessment year 1981-82 and subsequent years.

CSO: 4220

INDIA TO EXPORT ONE MILLION TONS OF RICE

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 13 Aug 80 p 7

/Text/

NEW DELHI, 11 Aug—Indian Government has decided to allow export of one million tons of rice and 89,000 tons of barley during the current year, it was officially stated here today.

This would be besides export of some quantity of Basmati rice, which is already under open general licence, Junior Minister for Agriculture told the Lower House of Parliament.

He said that subject to the minimum export prices laid down, exporting agencies were free to export to any country with whom India had trade relations.—*NAB/AFP*

CSO: 4220

NONFARM SECTORS DEEMED ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Jun 80 p 13

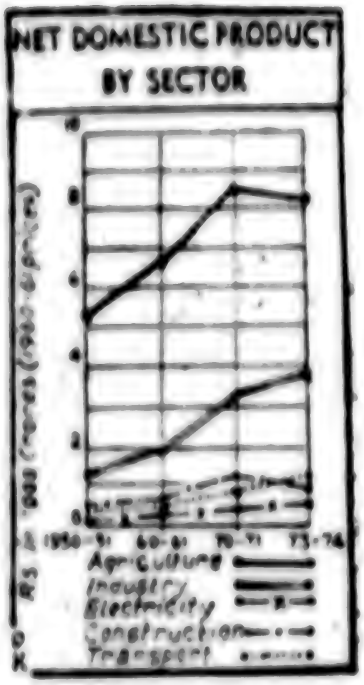
[Article by C. S. Chandrasekhara]

[Text] India's population in 1971 was 548 million. While in size it is second to China, what strikes one is the dynamics of its growth. In the recent past, within a short span of 30 years, India's population of 318 million in 1941 nearly doubled itself and became 548 million in 1971. A similar development has been forecast for 1971-2000.

Taking into account the vigour of India's family planning programme, India's population will in all probability reach 1,000 million. The challenge before the nation is not so much the high rate of growth as the tremendous increase in population which has to be fed, provided with employment and minimum living conditions. It is, therefore, pertinent to inquire into the effectiveness or otherwise of the development strategy that has been followed so far and that now projected, and consider whether the proposed strategy will be adequate to meet the challenge before the country.

A look at the performance of the Indian economy as measured by the growth of the Net Domestic Product will be useful. In terms of 1960-61 prices, the total Net Domestic Product of the Indian economy increased from Rs 9,122 crores in 1950-51 to Rs 19,910 crores in 1973-74. Of the total increase of Rs 10,800 crores, agriculture contributed nearly Rs 3,200 crores (or 30%), industry nearly Rs 2,300 crores (21%), electricity, transport and construction nearly Rs 1,600 crores (15%), and services over Rs 3,700 crores (34%).

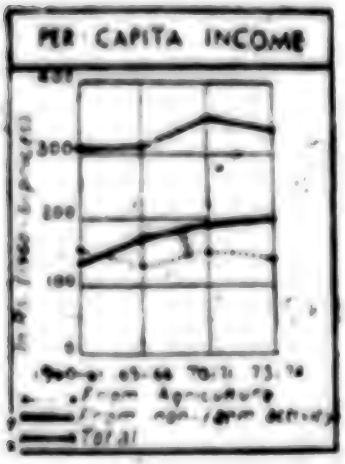
Significantly the increase in the Net Domestic Product due to agriculture has been sluggish and decreased sharply from 56% in 1950-51 to 41.7% in 1973-74, a loss of 14.4%. Industry's contribution increased, though not substantially, from 12.5% in 1951-61 to 17.2% in 1973-74. Contribution of other services share increased from 23.0% in 1950-51 to 29.3% in 1973-74. In other words, if all the services, including electricity and transport, are taken to represent the tertiary sector, then this sector accounted for nearly 50% of the total increase in the NDP during 1951-74.



It is evident that the share of the farm sector has been gradually decreasing over the period under reference and the non-agricultural sector has gained. However, when we look at the volume of employment sectorwise, there does not seem to be any perceptible changes. In 1971, the proportion of workers dependent upon agricultural occupation was 72%, compared to 72.3% in 1961. In the case of workers dependent on non-agricultural occupations, the figures are 27.3% in 1961 and 28% in 1971. In the tertiary sector also there has not been any significant change, the percentage in 1961 and 1971 being 16.1% and 16.7%, respectively.

The study of the per capita income figures over 1960-1974 reveals that there has not been any spectacular change. The per capita income at constant price (base 1960-61) was Rs 306 in 1960-61, and Rs 340 in 1973-74, which in terms of annual growth rate works out to less than 1%. In 1964-65, the per capita income had even decreased to Rs 336. It is clear, therefore, that in real terms there has been no appreciation in the per capita income after 1964-65.

A look at the per capita income from the agricultural and nonagricultural sectors gives an altogether different picture. The per capita income was Rs 142 in the case of agricultural occupation and had shown a well-defined decreasing trend; from Rs 157 in 1960-61 it went down to Rs 142 in 1973-74. The per capita income from the non-agricultural occupations, on the other hand, has shown a steady increase from Rs 149 in 1960-61 to Rs 198 in 1973-74.



Thus, the non-agricultural sector significantly improved over the period 1960-74, and whatever gains have accrued to the total per capita income in India has been mainly owing to the increased contribution made by the non-agricultural sector.

If we aim to bring about a substantial improvement in the lot of the common man and also catch up with the rest of the developing countries, it is imperative that we seek a much higher growth rate. If the Indian citizen has to aim for measurably better living conditions by 2001, a much higher rate of annual growth--at least double that of what has been achieved to date, say 7%--appears vitally necessary.

An attempt has been made to project the growth of Indian economy at the compound rate of 7% per annum. According to this projection, the per capita Gross Domestic Product would increase nearly four times from Rs 783 in 1973-74 to Rs 2,980 in 2001, and the total Gross Domestic Product would increase six-fold, increasing from Rs 450 billion in 1973-74 to Rs 2,800 billion by 2001.

Translated into sectoral contributions, it is significant that the economy's dependence on agriculture will be reduced. The share of agriculture comes down from 45% in 1973-74 to 23.2% in 2001. The non-agricultural sectors at the same time will gain. Industry's sector would go up to 25% and the services sector would become the leading sector with a share of 38%.

It is obvious that a substantial increase in per capita GNP will be accompanied by "structural changes" in the economy, consumption pattern and in population characteristics. Conversely, if the needed structural changes in the economy and the population disposition are brought about, an increase in per capita GNP should result.

It is abundantly clear that if India is to achieve a breakthrough in its economic development, a substantially higher economic growth rate is necessary, and in achieving the higher growth rate the role of industry and the tertiary sector will have to be pronounced and vigorous. The strategy for development will need to emphasize more jobs and job opportunities in nonagricultural occupations. The agricultural sector, due to its built-in constraints and natural inelasticity cannot sustain growth at a much higher tempo. The role of the tertiary sector in particular should become prominent, along with that of the industrial sector.

It is, therefore, paradoxical that planning in India has visualized the agricultural sector so as being the leading sector in the future development of the country. A stage has now been reached where further investment in agriculture can add only marginally to GNP and that a higher rate of growth of GNP can be brought about only through investment in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

Emphasis on the nonagricultural sector will mean investment on infrastructure for industrial development, transport, the communication network, power and the development of social services such as health, education and housing. Large-scale improvement in services infrastructure would invariably provide better services to the rural population, especially those engaged in agriculture. Thus, investment in the tertiary sector would help the population engaged in the primary sector as well.

The secondary sector would, however, receive a boost in infrastructure, power and transport. While investment in heavy industry can very well come from the private sector or the joint sector, investment by the Government will be only towards the build-up of infrastructure and essential

inputs, which should trigger a high level of productive activity and push up production as well as employment.

Further, there appears to be a great deal of misunderstanding in regard to investment in agricultural production and agricultural productivity. Investment alone is by no means the only, or even the most important factor for securing increased agricultural production, still less for securing increased agricultural productivity. Crores can be wasted on agriculture. In few areas of the Indian economy has investment proved to be as wasteful as in agriculture.

Under-utilization of capacity is by no means a phenomenon limited to industry; it has affected agriculture, perhaps to a greater extent. Dr Malcolm Adiseshiah has said: "A tentative conclusion suggested is that what is immediately needed to increase agricultural output, including foodgrain production, in each State is not a further increase in the existing high level of investment in this sector but to take action so that the existing irrigation facilities are fully utilized. The proper diffusion of our excellent research results and improvement in farm management, rather than large increases in agricultural investment, is what is needed."

A contributor as large as agriculture has seldom achieved a higher growth rate and will most likely act as a restraint on the rapid rate of growth of the whole economy. Consequently, it becomes imperative that to achieve a perceptible change in India's per capita income by 2001, the thrust of the development effort will have to be in the direction of nonagricultural sectors. The Sixth Plan visualizes that about 40% of Plan investment will go to the agricultural sector. Such a strategy will be self-defeating if we should aim at a growth rate of 7%.

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PLACE OF MUSLIMS IN INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM DESCRIBED

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[Article by Violette Graff, Centem for International Study and Research, National Political Science Foundation: "Muslims in the Indian Political System"]

[Text] Ajmer, Deoband, Aligarh: three high places of Asia's Islam that are in the territory of the Indian Union and which, at several days' distance--at least on the subcontinent--have attracted the light of the press. A press curiously calm in the face of the upheavals and crises that are shaking the Islamic world[1]. Does this mean that the 80,000,000 some Muslims in India (which is numerically one of the most important communities of Islam) are escaping the furors, the challenges, the awakenings and the hopes that permeate the UMMA?

Does it mean especially that India, within a lay parliamentary system, could manage to respond in a non-authoritarian fashion to the aspirations of an impressive religious minority, to integrate it into the national life without imposing upon it an insupportable assimilation, to protect it effectively without provoking serious phenomena of rejection on the part of the majority populations? In that case would there an Indian model, whatever serious jolts the regime might experience through the years? A crucial problem, because the terms in which the question has been raised since the early 19th century, in the British provinces of the Empire of the Indies, are behind the political antagonisms that finally led to the division of the subcontinent at the time of independence in 1947. Did Sir Sayed Ahmed Khan, the founder in 1875 of the Aligarh Anglo-Oriental Muslim College, believe at the time that the British Raj, whose durability seemed assured, was his community's most certain bulwark against a Hindustan that after a half-millenium of foreign occupation was strangely beginning to raise its head again?

"We have not ing in common with the Hindus," Mohammed Ali Jinnah, for his part, was to say with much bitterness when he was calling for Muslims to mobilize around him in 1940. "No marriage is possible; no sharing of a meal. We have neither the same epics nor the same heroes. Everything we believe in respectively is in conflict with what inspires the other. Our language and our history are radically opposite..."

For all that, was it necessary to go ahead with the vivisection of the subcontinent in the name of an Islam that afterwards revealed itself as impotent to integrate permanently the different ethnic groups of Pakistan[2]? Much could be said here about the grave errors of judgment committed by first-rank politicians of the Congress Party: waging the battle for the independence of their fatherland, they did not in fact know how in due course to give the minority communities the assurances that would have averted the rise of Muslim "communalism." That it was the "secularists" who were emphasizing the grandeur of a civilization in which different traditions were mingling harmoniously, and in which tensions, according to them, were but the fruit of the base maneuvers perpetrated by British imperialism. That, conversely, it was a Gandhi, although so concerned with community harmony, whose underlying behavior brought out the specifically Hindu character of Indian nationalism. From then on, how could Muslims be persuaded that the parliamentary and egalitarian regime that was being put in place by stages, with or without the patronage of the colonizer, would not leave them to the mercy of an ethnic and religious majority, which would take its revenge? Whence so many meetings, "historic pacts," rough drafts of solutions (separate electorates, balancing seats among provinces), which merely aggravated the misunderstandings and made the ruptures more bitter[3].

In fact, on the eve of independence the Congressists themselves had ended up admitting that they would never build a strong India if, installing universal suffrage in the whole country, they accepted the principle of a decentralized state in which the eastern and western provinces with Muslim majorities would have at their disposal the means for permanent pressure on the central government. In that case was it not wiser to acknowledge the principle of a Pakistani draft, and with it the secession of all or part of the provinces that the Muslim League was demanding, even if, paradoxically, the populations and regional governments concerned were expressing the strongest reservations?

Whence the dual drama that would ultimately bring on the 1947 Partition. It was in fact in the "minority" provinces, located in the heart of the Ganges valley, that the elite unwisely became the spokesmen for a "separatist" solution. After that there was nothing left for them but to emigrate to Pakistan, which was just developing, to be the cadres of the new state, leaving behind them communities in a state of shock, profoundly suspicious of their Indian fellow citizens because of the horrors and massacres that marked the division of the "mixed" provinces of Punjab and Bengal, as well as the forced exchanges of population. And the war that was to be unleashed in Cashmere would settle nothing because its sovereign, a Hindu, sided with India, whereas Pakistan believed itself justified in demanding a state with a basically Muslim population. The question was to poison relations between the two new Indian and Pakistani states, determine most of their choices in foreign policy and cause three wars, but in particular it was to weigh heavily on the destiny of the Muslims of India, who would pay for every mistake made by Pakistan, every clumsy intervention on the part of a foreign diplomat, every sign of "transnational" interest witnessed during events by which it is quite natural for the Community of Believers to be moved (from the burning of the El-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in 1969 to the sacrilegious assault on Mecca in 1979, including the execution of Ali Bhutto or the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan[4].

A Very Diversified Community

Who, then, are these Indian Muslims today who represent some 11 percent of the Indian population? Citizens like the others, having reconciled their faith with modernism and agreed to participate in the process of securalization of the state begun by Nehru? Are they on the contrary, and only, representatives of communities that are bruised and ill adapted to a regime and a framework within which they had been resigned to surviving, but nothing more, since the Partition? Or, further, at least in certain states of the Union, an impressive pressure group whose influence would affect in subtle but very real fashion the state's domestic and foreign policy?

Let us immediately dispel the superficial impression according to which Indian Islam represents a monolithic bloc. Such a view would not take into account the extreme segmentation of the Indian milieu in which the cleavages reach the whole of the social body. It is not just the Hindu society, which is multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic, that is strictly organized into a hierarchy. Of course the notions of purity or impurity play a role there that Islam, much more egalitarian, does not experience. In spite of everything, one has not stopped wondering about the existence of castes in Muslim society[5].

It is just as natural that for the very reason of the geographic immensity of the subcontinent, and considering the very unequal distribution of the minority communities, their situation is analyzed in very different terms, that it is a matter of their demographic concentration in certain key states, their historic and socio-cultural heritage, their languages, their economic situation--or their perception of it--and their adaptation to the modernization process. In the same way, the degree of Hinduization varies considerably, depending on the sects and social strata held in high respect, and imprints on the nature of inter-ethnic relations--or antagonisms--very appreciable regional, indeed local variations.

In fact it is a very heterogenous Islam: from the first cavalcades of nomads streaming out of Central Asia, to the powerful Mogul Empire which in the 16th and 17th centuries marked the apogee of Muslim power, Indian Islam was successively and strongly marked by Turkish, Afghan and Persian influences. Also Arabs since, parallel with the raids and conquests that gave an aggressive tonality to non-oceanic Islam, navigators and merchants were gaining a foothold on the west coast and being easily integrated into the local communities.

It is just as obvious--despite the image given today by the Hindu activists who militate within the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) of an Islam that surrounded itself with death and terror and practised forced conversions[6], also despite the pretensions of broad strata of Muslim society who readily claim prestigious foreign ancestry--that most of the communities existing on Indian soil are of native origin: populations that converted en masse in hopes of escaping from the Brahman system which relegated them to the bottom of the status scale (this was the case in eastern Bengal). Others, through the centuries, let themselves be seduced by the missionary zeal of [illegible]aints) from Persia or Iraq. Still others ratified the decision of the dominant groups on

which they were closely dependent, high-caste Hindus who won over the followings of Muslim sovereigns in order to get offices, benefits and lands from them, and brought with them a whole constituency of civil servants and craftsmen[7].

International borders

Borders between states of the Union

• Muslim centers or capitals of states mentioned in the text

The Muslim Population State by State

A few figures will illustrate what we have said: 49.9 percent of the Indian Muslims, or 30,000,000 people according to the 1971 census--a figure that is much higher today--are concentrated in the Ganges Valley, one of India's most heavily populated regions, in which the struggle to live is harshest. Conversely, only 4.95 percent of the Muslim population, or 3,000,000 people, lives in Cashmere.

On the other hand, if we examine the percentage of Muslim population state by state, the complexity of the situation is more apparent.

In the former princely state of Jammu-Cashmere 65.85 percent of the population is Muslim (90 to 95 percent in certain districts of the Srinagar Valley, where there remain no more than a few Hindu Pandits, who of course occupy key positions, but who could not survive without the services of the Muslims who preserve for them their ritual purity). Local political figures, however, have to consider a militant Hindu minority in Jammu and the presence of Buddhist populations in Ladakh, in the regions claimed by China. Hence the prudent nature of the demands for autonomy that in spite of everything, in spite of the special status of the state, underly the regional government's relations with the central government[8].

Twenty-four percent of Assam's people are Muslims, much less urbanized than the national average[9]. These are hard-working and especially skilled farmers, whose demographic thrust owes much to a constant influx of migrants from eastern Bengal. Although it started in the 1930s, this migration for several years has experienced such a noticeable acceleration that today it is causing extremely violent reactions of rejection on the part of the Hindu Assamese. Reactions that are all the more violent (even "separatist") because the native Assamese are now less numerous in their own state than the "foreigners." Among the latter are enterprising Hindus who speak the Bengal language, whereas the Muslims speak the local language.

In Bengal, despite the 1947 division, 20.5 percent of the inhabitants are still Muslims, the mass of agricultural workers who dominate in the districts bordering on Bangladesh; traditionally, as in eastern Bengal in former times, the large landowners there are Hindus (although it is necessary to qualify, because the land reforms of the 1960s changed the picture appreciably, and on the other hand in the 1970s the Congressist government gambled on the social ascension of the well-off Muslim peasants, the jotedars). Simultaneously, in the urban centers the momins (weavers) succeeded in maintaining the workshop quality that the Manchester mills had totally ruined in the 19th century. Finally, in Calcutta, the capital of Indian leftist radicalism, a very diversified Muslim population is crowded together, in which non-Bengalis are dominant and in which Urdu is spoken much more generally than is the regional language.

At the other extremity of India, Kerala, which is also heavily marked by leftist ideologies, a significant Muslim minority (19.5 percent of the population) is gathered together in the districts of Malabar (Calicut): farmers (moplas), or businessmen willingly enriched by smuggling. The moplas have experienced high fevers that have sometimes caused them to be called fanatics, but in fact they live in close harmony with their Hindu and Christian neighbors. Is not Kerala the land of welcome for minorities in India? For all that, they all speak the same language (a Dravidian dialect) and today live less in the age of Delhi than in the age of an old tradition rediscovered: the tradition of exchange with the emirates of the Persian Gulf, which brings about an economic "boom" not always well accepted.

Uttar-Pradesh and Bihar: in all the Muslim population represents but 15.5 percent and 13.5 percent of the number of inhabitants of these two states; however some districts are experiencing extremely significant "minority" concentrations (20 to 50 percent). A situation that cannot be emphasized enough, for these two provinces carry a very heavy weight historically and demographically in Indian political life.

Demographically because with 88,000,000 and 56,000,000 respectively (1971 census) they have 85 and 54 seats out of 542 in Parliament. Historically because they have been the heart of the great Buddhist and Hindu native empires, and because later, until the 1857 rebellion that followed the annexation of the kingdom of Oudh by the British, they experienced the flowering of a refined Muslim civilization. A civilization that not only built its most prestigious monuments in Agra, but also strongly marked the culture of the local elite. The latter--whatever their religious adherence--spoke Urdu more willingly than Hindi, at least until independence. A privilege of aristocratic circles perhaps, for it was conversely the rivalry between these two very similar languages (the first very close to Persian, the second to Sanskrit) that set the region's Muslim and Hindu civil servants against each other in an intense professional competition, beginning late in the 19th century.

Consequently there have been few middle classes among the Muslims of Uttar-Pradesh and Bihar since 1947. Poorly tolerating a decline and a discrimination not justified by their high rate of education, they emigrated massively to Pakistan, leaving the void that has been mentioned, which has never been filled. These two states are among the most backward in India, and the rural masses participate in the general poverty. What should be pointed out, however, is the dynamism of certain landed classes that have been able to adapt to the new circumstances, as well as the humming activity of numerous urban concentrations in which the Muslim craftsman dominates (brocade workshops in Benares or embroidery workshops in Lucknow, cutlery factories and arms factories in Rampur, padlock factories in Aligarh, etc.). However, these communities are engaged in tough economic competition. Hence the tensions that here and there are brought on by the sharing of resources that are necessarily very limited, and the conquest of one local market or another. How can it be surprising, then,

that political groups make use of the already very pronounced cleavages (including, in Lucknow, the rivalries between Shi'ites and Sunnites), and that Bihar and Uttar-Pradesh are on the black list of the "communalist" hot spots?

Ten percent Muslims in Karnataka (Mysore); 8.4 percent in Maharashhra; 8.4 percent in Gudjerat; 8 percent in Andhra Pradesh. We stop the list there, for it is necessary to go back to the special historic circumstances that explain the expansion and long survival of certain independent kingdoms and sultanates of the south. We mention, however, the original situation of Hyderabad, in the heart of Hindu Dekan, where the Muslim aristocracy and civil servants who surrounded the Nizam lost most of their prerogatives with the reattachment of that princely state to India in 1948, but do not suffer from the inferiority complex that so often undermines their cousins of the northern provinces. And in conclusion we recall the existence of very lively mercantile communities in Gudjerat and Bombay: Ismailians of Yemenite origin or converted Hindu merchants, Khodjas and Bohras who are especially well adapted, no doubt because they claim an accommodating Shi'ism that allows them to survive any kind of persecution, but has no influence on their political choices. Jinnah was one of theirs, as was the Aga Khan, but so was the illustrious "nationalist" family of the Tyabji, whose ancestor was the second president of the Congress Party.

What Integration?

The few indications given above will have shown all the complexity of the subject. Complexity on all levels, since it is not only a matter of what policy the "federal" leaders of India proposed to follow at the "Center" in 1947, to bring together a nation threatened by dangerous centrifugal forces, but also of discerning how that policy is expressed in the states of the Union. And taking objective situations into account, we will have to see simultaneously how those steps have been perceived, accepted or thwarted by the various segments of the Indian population.

The provisions of the 1950 constitution are obviously very clear. The state wants to be strictly secular (although until 1976, when the 42nd amendment was voted in, the word was never pronounced at all), and it guarantees the religious freedom--individual and collective--of all citizens. On the other hand it proposes to respond to the nation's pluralism by seeking an integration based on the individual equality of the citizens, even though such integration must be accompanied temporarily by clauses recognizing special collective statuses.

More concretely, the most lucid Indian leaders believe that a harmonious and equitable integration of the Muslims into the national life is coming about by means of three kinds of conditions: the Muslims must be really associated with the modernization effort undertaken since independence; their physical security must be assured; sufficiently clear pledges must be given by the government to the various communities, allowing for their natural devotion to certain specific symbols of their identity and tradition in the Hindu milieu, whatever may be the cleavages (horizontal and vertical) in the Muslim society.

However, is there not a profound ambiguity in using the very concept of secularism with respect to a society as profoundly impregnated with religious life as the Indian society, so devoted to the symbols that define it, and so totally foreign, moreover, to the Western idea of the separation of church and state? How far for example can the freedom to propagate the faith go? For what strikes the observer on another level is the generally prudent progress of a "mediator" federal government that follows a pluralist line and acknowledges the nation's "composite" character (integration of the different segments remaining the long-term objective); at the same time, however, the regional governments are proposing and very generally setting up a much less flexible policy, tending toward an elaborate integration, even a discriminatory one, of minority communities, whatever they may be[10].

Considering the fact that it is a matter of a parliamentary regime with legislative assemblies elected by universal suffrage (at the federal and regional levels), what role are the political parties led to play in this development? How has the Congress in particular responded to the raised hopes, since--in spite of long periods out of power and radical internal changes to which we will return--in spite of everything it has remained since independence the essential agent for mobilization and aggregation of the Indian masses? And the other parties, which embody on the national level a plan ideologically different from that of the Congress, or those which in a limited geographic area, devoted themselves through the years to the defense or mobilization of specific ethnic, linguistic, or religious groups? Considering the fierceness of the battles of the last three decades, how are the Muslims themselves to be inserted into the country's political life?

To tell the truth, they are inserted with all the more difficulty because many of them in 1947 got the impression that they were hostages in an enemy country. An impressive minority before the Partition (a quarter of the population), they represented no more than 10 percent, which still exceeded the threshold of tolerability for the Hindu majority, even though the government was claiming that they were partners in the process of political decision and responsible co-citizens.

Moreover, their psychological confusion was all the greater because most of the "modernist" leaders who had been able to guide their steps had emigrated. In fact there remained in India "secularist" Muslim personages who were ill prepared by their secular militantism for understanding the confused aspirations of profoundly religious masses, the latter remaining on the other hand solidly hemmed in by their Ulemas and by a whole body of organizations, of good will certainly, but very traditional, even "obscurantist."

> Among these the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind, an organization of the Ulemas of the Deoband Center (see note 1), had always been opposed to the very idea of a Pakistan: representative of a Sunnite Islam marked by tradition, and very close to the Congress, it was the breeding ground of what were called "nationalist" Muslims. Its most illustrious and most perceptive representative, Maulana Azad, the president torn from the party in 1945-1946, was to be the first minister of Education in the Nehru government.

> Founded in 1940 by Maulana Maudoodi, the Jamaat-i-Islami also condemned the Pakistani plan but, the opposite of the JUU [Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind], it represented the most demanding Muslim fundamentalism, and called for believers to reject any political participation in any entity that was neither Dar-Ul-Islam nor Dar-Ul-Arb. In fact it preached recognition of a special status for the Muslims in a state that recognized itself as Hindu, and it ultimately showed itself to be much less "fanatic" than actually demanding on the level of the Islamic ethic.

It remains that Muslims were incapable, in the state of shock they were in in the beginning, of defining any political strategy whatsoever, nor even of agreeing on the solutions to be hoped for over the long term. They did their best simply to survive from day to day, and in fact it would take nearly four years for a certain peaceful coexistence between communities to be able to be started.

The Muslims Support the Congress

Various events of an internal and external political nature, however, contribute to relaxing the atmosphere after 1951.

On the one hand a certain normalization of Indo-Pakistani relations is finally taking place, after several serious crises (the Nehru-Liaqat Ali Khan Pact).

On the other hand the death of Sardar Patel, the Indian minister of the Interior, and the removal of some important persons are appreciably changing the balance of forces inside the Congress and weakening the party's tendency toward Hinduization, with the "communalist" coloration that is lent to it by some. The prime minister, Mr Nehru, is now in a position to impose his views without meeting any real opposition inside or outside the Congressist system. Consequently there could be no question of the Muslims refusing, on the political level, to support an omnipresent organization that bears witness in general to a benevolent neutrality toward them, to give their votes to opposition parties whose promises are very uncertain. In a general way during that whole period the Muslims show themselves to be, if not conquered, at the very least reassured by Mr Nehru's personal progress, and by his very firm positions on the secularization of the state and inter-community understanding; everything indicates that from the first general elections (1951-1952) to the third general vote that precedes by a short time the Sino-Indian conflict of 1962, the Congress fills up with the votes of the minority.

After 1961-1962, however, the domestic climate deteriorates, and Mr Nehru's last years are difficult ones (war with China, inter-Congressist tensions, the failure of the Third Five Year Plan, the reappearance of violence between religious communities). The coming to power of Mr Shastri (May 1964-January 1966), and then the early ye[illegible] Mme Gandhi's government are marked by an unprecedented thrust of agita[illegible]nguistic or otherwise) and a war with Pakistan, by a threat of food s[illegible]tage and a serious economic recession. To this is added, for the Muslims, a development that seems to them to threaten all they hold most dear, with the gradual removal of Urdu (Hindi was imposed as the official national language in 1965), the "suspension" of the status of

Aligarh (also in 1965), certain blunders committed by Mr Shastri, who personally receives Golwalkar, the revered leader of the RSS, and especially the suspicion that surrounds civilian and military Muslims at the time of the 1965 conflict with Pakistan, despite their remarkable loyalism. And the election of a president of the Republic from the minority, Dr Zakir Hussein, a former vice chancellor of Aligarh, does not for all that dispel a growing malaise[11].

A Turning Point for the Congress

The general elections of 1967 mark a decisive turning point in India's political life. Until then the Congress Party had remained the only organization powerful enough to claim to form and cause to operate coherent governments at the federal and regional levels. In 1967 it obtains only 41 percent of the votes cast, instead of 45 percent. In some states this movement of votes takes on the aspect of a rout, but in most cases it is to the advantage of extremely heterogenous governmental coalitions, which have nothing in common except a fanatical anti-Congressism. Even at the "Center" the Congress retained the majority, but only by a hair's breadth, and serious tensions will develop between Mme Gandhi and the bosses of the apparatus: in November 1969 there is an official schism and the governmental party, a minority in Parliament, is now obliged to depend on the conditional support of the PC [Communist Party] and certain regional organizations.

What are the effects of this development on the Muslim minority? First of all where its electoral behavior is concerned, 1967 marks a turning point and expresses a real disaffection with regard to the Congress. But the fruits of the new strategies in which the various community leaders are engaged are not convincing. Can a specific Muslim political party be formed? There is hardly anything in the southern part of the country but the Muslim League that is sufficiently removed from the dramas of the Partition to be able prudently to resume any militant activity. In fact in Kerala it is becoming an essential element of the regional political life. In 1967 in particular it is an important partner of the leftist United Front with communism as the predominating characteristic (first the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], then the CPI [Communist Party of India] in 1970), which will form the government. It will be followed by all the ministerial combinations[12].

But elsewhere? To act through the intermediary of a pressure group? This is certainly what a number of Muslim organizations were tempted to do--cultural as well as political organizations--, organizations which after 1964, alarmed by the rising violence, forged a new tool, the Muslim Majlis e Mushawarat. An extraordinarily disparate front of personalities whose political and ideological itinerary had until then profoundly diverged, the MMM [Muslim Majlis et Mushawarat] contented itself in 1967 with acting indirectly on candidates of all adherences who might take up the defense of Muslim interests. A thoroughly limited action that ended in serious failure[13]. And the representation of the Muslims in the legislative assemblies declined appreciably, even though in the whole country one was witnessing the vigorous thrust of particularist or regional organizations that now had considerable bargaining power with respect to the large "national" parties.

Most serious for the Muslim communities is the new self-confidence of the Jan Sangh, which in a period characterized by fluidity and opportunism remains the only organization, with the Communist Party-Marxist, to formulate a consistent ideology. It is the spokesman for a pure, tough Hinduism, the champion of the grandeur of Mother India. Its "Indianization" slogan does not alarm the minorities for nothing, and unprecedented riots ravage Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in September of 1969, on the eve of the Rabat Islamic Conference, and Bhiwandi (Maharashtra) in April of 1970[14].

Consequently, it will require the personal intervention of Mme Gandhi (who takes over the Interior Ministry in 1970) to right the helm with all the desired vigor, and as for the extreme intercommunity tension, recourse to the National Integration Council (a very symbolic gesture, actually) bears fruit. In the 1971 elections the Muslim electorate will draw conclusions from that state of affairs and elect the prime minister by a massive landslide. Does this mean that this time the minority has assessed the extent of its dependence on the government? On the contrary, is it participating in the wave of enthusiasm for the very perso of Mme Gandhi that is stirring all the Indian masses?

In any case the Bangladesh affair will soon put to the test this new contract of loyalty between the minority and the Congressist government, but the Muslims--at least the great majority of them, and despite the emotion aroused in them by the collapse of the Pakistani myth--will be prudent enough not to refuse to support the government[15]. Likewise in the years following, when a new grave internal political crisis begins and the same regime is being challenged little by little by the "JP [expansion unknown] Movement" (1974-1975), few members of the minority will be tempted to support the anti-establishment activity. Likewise, finally, when Mme Gandhi decides to freeze the freeze the political interplay and intern the principal leaders of the opposition parties, declaring on 26 June 1975 a state of emergency that will put the country to work overnight, the Muslim League will give its support to the governmental action; has not the time for classic political struggles really passed, for all that? The hardening of the special regime in 1975-1976, and the suspension of certain "fundamental rights" are enough to completely explain the winning over. But it is a question for certain important Muslims, not only of better management of the desert crossing that awaits the whole political class. Indeed it is now necessary to preserve at any price a margin for maneuver that will enable them to continue to make their voices heard on a strictly humanitarian plane[16].

The Seesaw Muslim Electorate

April 1976. Urban renewal operations undertaken under deplorable psychological conditions in the heart of the old city of Delhi, not far from the Grand Mosque, bring on a desperate reaction on the part of an entire sector of the population that is already very much traumatized by a supposedly voluntary male sterilization campaign.

October 1976. In Uttar-Pradesh, Muslims react by throwing stones to a roundup organized by those in charge of the vasectomy operations, in order to attain--even exceed--the prescribed quotas[17].

[illegible] "Emergency" circulate rapidly in India, and it is very quickly realized that the minorities that are best disposed toward the government have won in their turn, first by uncertainty and then by fear, even panic. Should the prime minister be unaware of the excesses committed in her name? Would she also be unaware that in prison the irreconcilable adversaries that the Hindu activists of the RSS and the Muslim fundamentalists appear to be have "met" and are sharing each other's prayers? To tell the truth, when in January 1977 Mme Gandhi undertakes to have the political prisoners released, and calls the Indian electorate to the polls, it seems that in the minds of her entourage this is a necessary but easy operation, meant to legitimize the important changes in the constitution since 1975. No one seems to have suspected the magnitude to be assumed, at least in northern India, by the silent and effective mobilization of millions of humble volunteers, including Muslims, who were going to cause to bite the dust under the most humiliating conditions, the oldest political party in Asia, bringing to power, around several austere old men, a coalition of opposition parties that seemed suddenly to have surmounted their traditional differences[16].

Also, the basic movement that won by a landslide over the Janata, like the "Indira wave" of 1971 is blending the traditional cleavages of Indian society. But now could that sacred Union resist the confrontations that will occur in no time between the various components of the governmental team? The members of the federal government and even more, the governments of the states in which the electorate has disavowed the Congress, are in fact trying to be responsive to the expectations of supporters whose interests are completely antagonistic. They have capitalized for so long on the discontent of these constituents that from the outset they were caught in a trap of insurmountable contradictions. Classes and castes that believed they had been forgotten, not well loved, held back by the Congressist regime, expect everything, right now, from the Janata. And while in rural areas or urban ghettos the grass roots outflanks the national leaders, while riots increase, uncertainty, followed by disenchantment, mounts very rapidly.

Benares, Sambhal, Aligarh, Jamshedpur, Nadia. The old "communalist" demons have awakened, the spark that lights the powder keg flashes on minor pretexts--processions that cut across each other, provocative music in front of a mosque, a smugglers' quarrel--, but in 1978 the riots take on a wild and recurrent character that demonstrates dramatically, in Aligarh and Jamshedpur in particular, the impotence and the impartiality of the local police. Of course the responsibility for them is not all on the same side (in Sambhal there will be more deaths on the Hindu side), but the Muslims were not mistaken in denouncing the inertia of the men reputed to be the most secularist in the government who observe a surprising silence when their bazaars are in flames; nor were they mistaken in denouncing the inertia of the ministers close to the former Jan Sangh who decide to no more disavow the dubious role of some of their deputies than the so-called "cultural" activities of the RSS militia[17]. What matters, then, these so-called rediscovered fundamental freedoms, rote incantation to democracy, this constant reference to the Gandhian tradition, when negligence and insecurity are taking hold?

And before long there is no more time to hope that something will come out of the alignments and realignments that are continually being changed in the government, when the verbal excesses of Janata members who a little later on, with rage, investigate the proceedings of their communalist colleagues, cause a schism in the party, the president of the Republic takes the consequences. In August 1979 Parliament dissolves.

A dismal and long--very long--electoral campaign, while India plunges into a crisis of which it very quickly becomes apparent that Mme Gandhi and her entourage are the sole beneficiaries. Moreover, the former prime minister is gathering the fruits of the solicitude she was often the only one, since her fall, to show toward her traditional electorate. She also made a spectacular comeback, a comeback that will be affirmed further during the electoral tour she will conduct with remarkable mastery; she speaks in the most remote districts, shows that she is closer than anyone to the under-privileged and the minorities, nevertheless careful not to fan the flame again with the high-caste Hindus, friendly toward religious leaders, as toward renegades and dissidents who rush up with no regard for propriety, concerned with calming the awakening antagonisms; Assam is clearly on fire and bloody because imprudent people stirred up anti-Bengalese passions there.

Mme Gandhi's Victory

From the outset the Muslim vote seems to have been destined to take on a decisive importance; one has only to read the promises made to the minority in each party's program, to see with what care the candidates are selected, to understand with what passion politicians affirm their secularism and their desire to render justice at last to the aspirations of the minorities. A zeal that cannot help but stimulate the most unreasonable demands; as with the Imam of the Great Mosque in Delhi who had a decisive role in 1977 in the Janata's victory, and who continues to want to play "king-maker." The Janata could not use his services? He is ready to offer them to Mme Gandhi if she embarks on a policy of reserving seats for Muslims: 20 percent in the candidacies for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha; 20 percent in the federal cabinet and the regional governments; 20 percent in the administration and the armed forces or the forces that maintain order. On this last point the Jamiat-Ul-Ulema goes to 33 percent[20]. As for the Muslim-Majlis-e-Mushawarat, it gets its second wind, this time in the form of a Muslim National Front that includes the major part of the Muslim organizations, which are careful to avoid scattering the minority votes. Which is not an idle concern, as the future will demonstrate. The Muslim National Front will have blown up well before the elections because it was unable to resist the diverse solicitations of which it was the object[21].

Now comes the moment of truth. When the results come down on the evening of 8 January, Mme Gandhi's victory exceeds the most optimistic predictions of her partisans themselves. The Congress known as "Indira" (for there is another Congress that will collapse in ridicule) in fact just misses the two-thirds majority, with 350 seats out of 546. The victory is actually extended to the whole country, with the exception of Kerala in the extreme south, and

Bengal and Tripura in the east, where the two long-time enemy Communist parties, reconciled at last, are solidly anchored. With the further exception of Uttar-Pradesh, where the renegades from the Janata who opted for a "progressive" way obtain undreamed-of results, while there as elsewhere the Janata is eroded.

What conclusions can be drawn from this? And how did the Muslims vote? Let us not forget that of 64 electoral districts in which they make up 20 to 50 percent of the population, 24 are in Uttar-Pradesh and 21 in West Bengal, that is to say, in the states where the Congress-I clashes with its toughest adversaries.

An accomplished fact, and a more detailed district-by-district study of the number of votes cast should confirm the general tendency the press has mentioned: whether, in the 64 districts in question, the Congress-I obtained 36.48 percent of the votes, while 57 percent of the votes went to the Janata, to its renegades regrouped in a Lok-Dal, to the Congress-Urs (renegades from the Congress-I), to the Communist Party-Marxist and several other leftist organizations[22]. The Muslims absolutely did not vote "en bloc," but they totally embraced the hopes and fears of their compatriots, and dividing the risks, one may say, at best, and declaring themselves only indirectly on problems more particularly concerning the "minority" interests. Which, parenthetically, once more invalidates the arithmetic exercises to which Indian observers continue to surrender themselves before the elections, any intention of voting seeming to them to be determined only by the cleavages of caste and community.

Another obvious fact is that the Muslims are much more involved in a normal "secularization" process than is generally recognized. Which means, concretely, that they do not hesitate to vote for a Hindu candidate, or even an atheist, if he seems to them more "progressive", or in a better position to protect their interests than an opportunist or "deviant" Muslim. Hence the crushing failure they inflicted on /all/ [in italics] the Muslim candidates--and there were many--put up by the Janata to improve its own image. Hence the success of the CPI (M) in western Bengal, where the "Marxist" Hindu candidates and their Muslim comrades prevailed over the revered Hajjis of the Janata, the Muslim League and the Congress-I. For Mme Gandhi only prevailed in the districts with heavy Muslim density when the candidates were close to her son Sanjay.

And so in conclusion it must be emphasized that the minority communities were facing a true choice of society. After years of a parliamentary regime that had more often "used" them than effectively protected them; after a reassuring "authoritarian" regime whose excesses, however, had very quickly offended them; after an (enthusiastic) attempt to support the alternative solutions that the predominantly Hindu and conservative parties, mixed with a few socialists, were offering them, the matter seemed to them to be settled. Was not Mme Gandhi again promising them "law and order," and a "government that governs"? What matter, then, the upsurge around her son of a generation very different from the preceding ones, in which concern for efficiency and a certain cynicism breaks with the tradition of the great leaders of the

independence?[23] Nostalgia is not what it was. Past glories cannot be resurrected. So it is a question of living and surviving; of coexisting in the villages according to immemorial outlines, and of escaping in the cities from the condemnation of all the groups to which you are in opposition because of a hard economic competition; of struggling, certainly, to preserve an identity to which one clings, but also of being recognized as a full-fledged citizen. So goes Indian Islam, which is crowded into innumerable madrassahs, newly financed by Saudi Arabia, but which denies itself any adventure, unless it is provoked.

FOOTNOTES

1. Ajmer, located in the arid areas of Rajasthan, is one of the subcontinent's most visited pilgrimage places. Mme Gandhi went there on 15 March to bow before the dargah [translation unknown] of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, the revered soufi [translation unknown] who introduced into India the very important brotherhood that bears his name. Several days later in a very different place, in Deoband (Uttar-Pradesh), the prime minister took part in the celebrations commemorating the centenary of the Darul-Uloom, one of the Muslim world's large seminaries (the second largest, they say, after El-Azhar University in Cairo). Very early, under the British regime, the Ulemas were at the heart of the Indian "nationalist" opposition to the Darul-Uloom.

   Less serene, to tell the truth, than Deoband, Aligarh was also the scene of a battle, but that was the battle of the "modernists" who at the end of the 19th century attempted, on a very British campus, to reconcile Islamic studies and Western disciplines. However, in the 1940s the University imprudently mobilized on the matter of the Pakistani separatist plan, and that was "treason" that still weighs heavily on it. The Indian leaders change its status periodically, and in 1972 in particular its autonomy was reduced considerably. It is on that point that, following the Janata, Mme Gandhi is trying hard today to find a calming solution. A law was introduced in Parliament on 28 March, recognizing that the University was established by and for Muslims of India; however, this amendment seems to be generally recognized as adequate by most spokesmen for the minority who have made Aligarh the living symbol of their identity, especially in the northern part of the country.

2. On the development of Pakistan since 1947, see Marc Gaborieau, "Le Pakistan: Etat des Musulmans ou Etat musulman," PROJET, No 140, December 1979, pp 1273-1280.

3. Among the many works dealing with the development of the subcontinent in the 19th and 20th centuries, see in particular P. Hardy, "The Muslims of British India, London, Cambridge University Press, 1972.

4. It is a fact that Muslims sometimes use little discretion in the way they show their emotions. Thus they yield easily to certain provocations, as in Calcutta or in Hyderabad in November 1979, even though otherwise, for example in the matter of Afghanistan, they are able to assess the complexity of a situation that makes them indignant. Conversely, it is sometimes in the very heart of the community that the worst intransigence is shown. Sheikh Abdullah's government did nothing in Cashmere to prevent the sacking of the villages of Jamaat-i-Islami, where in April 1978 Ali Bhutto's execution was approved.

5. On this very controversial point, compare Imtiaz Ahmad, editor, "Caste and Social Stratification Among the Muslims," Delhi, Manohar Book Service, 1975. See also Gaborieau, article cited, p 1275.

6. The RSS is the so-called "cultural" wing of a political party whose audience is a large one in northern India, especially among the middle classes, even though it does not always find expression on the parliamentary level. It draws from a strict ideology: a single people, a single culture, a single nation, and its "reading" of the history of the subcontinent aroused very lively controversy during its time in power, between 1977 and 1979, as principal component of the Janata Party. That party, which has been known since 1977 as the Jan Sangh, since April 1980 has been the hard core of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

7. The very diverse modalities of these rallyings or conversions explain the alternation in the course of the history of the subcontinent, of revivalist periods, with their return to an orthodox Sunnism, and Soufi thrusts that facilitated an Islamic-Hindu symbiosis. Hence the multiple facets of this Islam, and the considerable number of sects. Numerically, the hanefite [translation unknown] Sunnism is very largely in the majority. The Shi'ites represent only a tenth, at the very most, of the whole, but for a long time, especially in Uttar Pradesh (compare the Nawabs of Lucknow), they have had a predominant political and economic role. Compare Murray Titus, "Indian Islam," New Delhi, Oriental Books, reprinted 1979. On the linguistic level, Urdu, or "the language of the camps," now become the language of poets, stemming from Hindi idioms transcribed in Arab-Persian characters, is spoken by 29,000,000 speakers, not all of them Muslims, or 5.2 percent of the population (1971 census).

8. It was not until 1975 that Mme Gandhi's government managed to normalize its relations with the present head of the government, Sheikh Abdullah, the leader of the National Conference, who had been under house arrest since 1953. On the Cashmere problem, compare Christiane Hurtig, "Le conflit du Cachemire," La Documentation Francaise, NOTES ET ETUDES DOCUMENTAIRES, 5 Mars 1968.

9.

	Urban Population	Rural Population
National average	19.87 percent	80.13 percent
Muslims	28.8 percent	71.2 percent
Assam	--	96 to 97 percent
Western Bengal (Not including Calcutta)	--	84 to 98 percent

Compare N. A. Siddiqui, "Population Geography of Muslims of India, New Delhi, Chand & Co., 1976.

10. It is not without reason that Muslims feel they are "not well liked," and complain of being the object of discrimination in the administration, the police, the army. All socio-economic indicators in fact confirm that they are under-represented: according to recent statistics, the percentage by state of Muslims belonging to official bodies would be 3.09 percent in the Indian Administrative Service and 3.19 percent in the Indian Police Service.

Among the lesser civil servants in the federal services, Muslims would be only .2 percent. Examples could be multiplied by also recalling that of a total of 3,604 colleges of higher education, only 54 are administered by Muslims, and that 3.5 percent only of the minority students are pursuing their studies in technical institutes; that out of 223 judges sitting on the High Court, there are only 14 Muslims.

However, we must watch out for the very subjective side of the state of dependency and frustration the minorities complain of. On the one hand, they often emerge the losers in competition and even in Aligarh they are seen not to obtain the same results in examinations as their non-Muslim comrades. On the other hand, the importance given to Koranic teaching does not make it easy for them to enter modernity, or into competition at a high level of responsibility. Add to that that the so-called "middle" classes constitute numerically only a poorly represented social stratum in Indian Muslim society (compare above, the paragraphs on Uttar-Pradesh and Bihar).

Other elements account for the slowness or the grievances that are known to be formulated at nearly all levels of that society: a perhaps unreasonable, but understandable, devotion to certain symbols of Islamic identity that they believe are dangerously threatened; for example, their statute law (the Shariah), whereas the authorities have promised not to touch it (theoretically there is a single and compulsory civil code); for example, the intangible Muslim character of Aligarh so often challenged, whereas the constitution expressly grants to minorities the right to run their own institutions; finally, for example, the inexorable decline of Urdu, a problem that is mobilizing only the Muslims of northern India, but which is very real, since the regional governments of the states concerned are not succeeding in imposing it as a second compulsory language there, where such a request would be most justified.

As for the poor representation in regional and local police forces, this is actually a serious problem, considering their behavior in cases of riots. It would seem that the federal government on that point adopts the advice of the Minorities Commission, which has suggested an entirely different approach to problems of security.

One will find developments concerning socio-economic and cultural problems of Muslim communities in: Zafar Imam, editor, "Muslims in India," Delhi, Orient Longman, 1975; Paul R. Brass, "Language, Religion and Politics in North India," New York, Cambridge University Press, 1974; K. L. Gauba, "Passive Voices," Delhi, Sterling Publications, 1973; and, more recently, in Rasheeduddin Khan, "Muslim Situation and plight of Urdu," ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY, 2 September 1978, pp 1509-1515; Rafiq Zakaria, "Are our Minorities Second-Class Citizens?", ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY, 7 May 1978, pp 8-13; Imtiaz Ahmad, "The Problem of Muslim Backwardness in Contemporary India, 44 p, New Delhi, 1980.

11. In fact, it is with the greatest skepticism that Muslim society welcomes the appointment of one of its own to a prestigious post. It considers these people showmen, rubber stamps. Rather a summary judgment, but it is not always unjustified, considering the little that can be done by Muslim public men for their community. Sometimes this is from lack of courage, or because they are too strongly "secularized." But often, too, it is because too visible an intervention in favor of their coreligionists would go directly against their interests. In that respect, the more or less significant number of Muslim deputies in the various assemblies (48 in the present Lok Sabha, 28 in the one before) scarcely changes the facts of the problem. On this point, see the various studies by Theodore Wright, in particular "The Effectiveness of Muslim representation in India," in Donald Smith, editor, "South Asian Politics and Religion," Princeton, 1966.

Noteworthy is the enthusiasm aroused by the appointment of a Muslim, for the first time since independence, in 1979 to the post of chief of staff of the air force. A lapidary comment by the person concerned (personal interview): "There would be more of us in this kind of post if my colleagues weren't all in Pakistan."

12. CPI (M) = Communist Party of India-Marxist. CPI = Communist Party of India. The first claims to be orthodox and independent; the second has long served as a transmission belt between Moscow and "the progressive elements" in the Congress.

13. The MMM had an offshoot, the Muslim Majlis, who played a role in Uttar Pradesh on various occasions, at least until the death of its founder, Dr Faridi, in 1974, that was fairly important. Linking its fate to the Janata in 1977, the MM since then has experienced diverse schisms and its president, Mr Zulfigarullah, bit the dust in the 1980 elections.

14. Violette Graff, "Les emeutes communalistes de 1969 a Ahmedabad dans leur contexte national et international," in PURUSARTHA, CEIAS [expansion unknown] edition, EHESS [expansion unknown], 1977, pp 179-214.

15. However, the Congress will just barely walk away with the Uttar-Pradesh regional elections in 1974.

16. It will be noted that, unlike the Muslim League, the Jamaat-i-Islami, considered an extremist organization like the RSS, in 1975 had been the object of a definite interdiction. A number of its members had thus been incarcerated, despite all their reservations about the political agitation during 1974.

17. The Muslims are all the more sensitive to the problems of family planning because in some respects those problems take on an eminently political coloration. In fact, many Hindu groups are alarmed at the high fertility rate of the minorities who, they say, will surpass them one day.

18. On the formation and evolution of the Janata, compare Christiane Hurtig, "Une annee decisive," PROJET No 122, February 1978, pp 144-159; and Violette Graff, "Les transformations du paysage politique indien," DEFENSE NATIONALE, May 1979, pp 81-101. On the Muslim vote, compare Theodore Wright, "Muslims and the Indian Elections: a Watershed?", ASIAN SURVEY, December 1977, pp 1207-1219.

19. It will be noted, however, that the ministers in question had acquired, through their liberalism and sincerity, a very real popularity, and that the efforts of the Foreign Affairs Minister in particular to normalize Indian-Pakistani relations were followed with much hope in all of the Muslim circles.

20. Girilal Jain, one of the most influential Indian editorial writers, correctly stressed the extremely dangerous nature of these demands: "Role of Indian Muslims; participation limited to Poll," TIMES OF INDIA, 26 September 1979.

21. A very lucid article on this Front's lack of sincerity appeared in radiance, the Jamaat-i-Islami newspaper: "Whither Muslim Votes!", 16 December 1979.

22. "Muslims Did not Vote as a Community," THE INDIAN EXPRESS, 16 January 1980 and "Muslims Did not Vote en Bloc," THE TIMES OF INDIA, 26 January 1980.

23. Sanjay Gandhi is surrounded by very many young Muslims whose profile is still not well known. It is certain that they do not fit into any of the old outlines we mentioned: neither traditionalists nor modernists, neither communalists nor nationalists. "They want to get things done," and they may be closer to the grass roots than the seasoned politicians. At the very least this seems to point to the result of the anticipated elections that took place in late May in nine states of the Union, in which the thrust of the Youth Congress is confirmed, especially in Uttar-Pradesh.

8946
CSO: 4200

SPLIT IN TRADE UNION CONGRESS REPORTED, DENIED

Rival Body Set Up

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 23 Jun 80 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, June 22.--The rift in the Indian National Trade Union Congress was formalized today with the setting up by a largely attended convention of delegates of a rival body in opposition to the Congress (I)-dominated faction. The convention elected the veteran trade union leader, Mr J.S. Dara as the president of the "real" INTUC.

The convention, in the words of Mr Dara, had "stripped" the "gang of four," comprising Mr A. P. Sharma and Mr C. M. Stephen, Union Ministers, Mr. G. Ramanujam and Mr A. G. Mukerji, M.P., of their offices in the INTUC.

Describing the four as "usurpers," he said that by refusing to relinquish their posts as president and treasurer after assuming office as Union Ministers, Mr Sharma and Mr Stephen had "confirmed the worst fears of the rank and file of INTUC workers." He accused the four leaders having converted the INTUC into a handmaiden of the ruling party. The sole purpose of the INTUC under these leaders appeared to be to "get foreign junkets for themselves and their nominees and to secure Congress (I) tickets for others."

The general council of the INTUC, which met under his presidentship today, had decided to expose the "machinations" of the Congress (I) politicians "who appear to have seized the organization, using their high political offices to secure their grip." The working class movement he said, had been betrayed by them. He demanded that these leaders withdraw from the international organization of trade unions after today's decision by the general council and the delegates' session removing them from their INTUC offices.

Another resolution urged enactment of comprehensive legislation safeguarding the interests rural workers. [as published] Rural workers the resolution said, should be given the right to form trade unions.

The general council passed a number of resolutions dealing with issues of political importance and with a bearing on problems facing labour. In the main political resolution, the general council expressed its deep concern

"at efforts to erode the civil liberties of the people in general and labour in particular." The "anti-labour" Ordinances issued in Maharashtra and Orissa posed a serious threat to workers' rights and should be withdrawn immediately. It warned the country against undemocratic tendencies and the drift towards one-party rule so manifest in the functioning of the ruling party at the Centre.

In another resolution, the general council demanded that the provision for minimum bonus be made permanent and that it cover all workers, including those employed in government offices under the Central and State Governments.

The general council, apart from electing Mr Dara the national president, elected Mr S. W. Dhave and Dr M. D. Natarajan the general secretaries, Mr Vardarajan Nair and Mr G. C. Bhattacharya vice-presidents and Mr Shankar Dayal Singh treasurer. It decided to hold the next session of the INTUC in Bangalore from August 9 to 11.

Sharma Denies Split

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jun 80 p 10

[Text]

MR A P SHARMA, president of the INTUC and Union Minister for Transport and Shipping, has denied the news appearing in a section of the press that there has been a split in the Indian National Trade Union Congress, reports UNI.

In a statement issued in New Delhi on Monday Mr Sharma said that neither the so-called convention held in the Capital last week nor its sponsors had anything to do with the INTUC organisation. While Mr J S Dara had already been expelled from the membership of the organisation, Dr Natraj was defeated in his bid to seek re-election as president of the Karnataka branch of the INTUC and had subsequently been removed from his position as organising secretary of INTUC. Mr S Dhabe had already stated that he had resigned from the INTUC.

'In fact, these persons formed a bunch of self-seekers who were desperate in seeking the shelter of some office after having lost their positions in the INTUC,' Mr Sharma said.

Mr Sharma said it was amusing to read the press report on "a handful of individuals assembling and calling themselves as delegates of the so-called convention."

These leaders did not have the elementary idea as to how one is elected as a delegate on behalf of a union affiliated to the INTUC as per its constitution.

"The INTUC had elected its delegates, general council members, working committee members and office-bearers at the Indore session of INTUC in October 1978, representing more than 30 lakh members. Therefore, anybody holding a meeting of few individuals and calling themselves as INTUC delegates is nothing but a mere farce," Mr Sharma said.

He said the INTUC had decided to support the Congress-(I) in the last election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies because in its view the Cong-I was the only political party in the country which could serve and safeguard the interests of the working class and not people like Mr Devraj Urs who had tried unnecessarily to run a political party in his name which had been rejected by the people."

BHAGAVATI'S VIEW

Mr B Bhagavati, former president of the INTUC and president of Indian National Rural Federation, has unequivocally reiterated his dis-association with sponsors of split in INTUC led by Mr J S Dara.

Mr Bhagavati has stated that he was always for a united INTUC and he will never be a party to split the premier trade union centre of the country.

Mr Bhagavati further added that his name has been mentioned by the sponsors of split without his permission.

CSO: 4220

JANATA CHIEF REPORTS ON EXECUTIVE MEETING

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jun 80 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, June 22. The Janata Party (JP) has decided to take up as its immediate task the strengthening and building up of the organisation.

Other matters like Opposition unity etc would be attended to in due course, according to Mr Subramaniam Swamy, one of the General Secretaries of the Party.

Mr Swamy, who was briefing the press on the two-day meeting of the National Executive of the party, said that despite electoral reverses the enthusiasm of party workers remained unabated. This, he said, was clear from the discussion in which members felt optimistic that the party had the best chance to provide a national alternative.

It was therefore decided to concentrate on building up the organisation. From July to October, a membership drive would be launched after which organisational elections would be held from the district level up to national level. The next national level plenary session would be held by December 31.

The executive also reviewed the State-wise performance of the party in the Assembly poll.

The Executive adopted a resolution saying that the victory, seculared in the elections by the Congress (I) seemed to have been interpreted by the ruling party as an opportunity to consolidate the authoritarian forces. "There is tampering with the administrative set up in a spirit of vindictiveness and partisan attitude and the efforts to undermine the freedom of the judiciary and mass media have been on the increase. Cases pending in courts of law have been withdrawn indiscriminately. There is callous disregard for law and order and atrocities on the weaker sections and women are growing" the resolution said.

Under these circumstances, the resolution said, the Janata party would have to work vigilantly and with determination for the preservation of the democratic rights and economic interest of the common people. This task should be carried on through sustained and constructive institutional work at the grass roots level. While the Janata Party would concentrate on strengthening its own organisational base, it would cooperate with other Opposition parties inside legislatures and outside in defending democracy and in fighting for social and economic justice, the resolution added.

On the economic situation, the National Executive expressed concern over the "reversal of pro-people policy of the Janata Government." The economic survey 1979-80, in its view was an eloquent testimony of the wisdom of Janata Governments policies and achievements. By contrast, the Congress (I) Government's performance of the last five months had shown drift "Instead of a Government that works what we have is a Government that shirks its responsibility and tries to cover up its incapacity with misleading populist measures," the resolution said.

CSO: 4220

JANATA PARTY MEMBER CHARGES ABDULLAH GOVERNMENT BEHIND CLASHES

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Aug 80 p 1

[c] SIALKOT, Aug. 12: Weak and inefficient Sheikh Abdullah Government was responsible for the violent clashes in Srinagar on July 26 and 27. This was alleged by Subramanyam Sawami, head of the Janata Party parliamentary delegation to the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, according to reports reaching here from across the border.

Swami Subramanyam, levelled this charge at a Press conference in Srinagar after his arrival in the State capital on Sunday last.

The Janata Party delegation is making on-the-spot inquiry into the bloody secterian clashes that resulted in the death of six Muslims, including a Pakistani boy Aftab Ahmad of Rawalpindi, who was there as a visitor.

Swami Subramanyam, deploring the role played by the Abdullah Government, suggested "overhauling" of the State machinery for creating sense of security among the masses.

He said the recent bloody clashes indicated the presence of such elements in the State that were against its accession to India. These elements, he said, were working clandestinely and their activities were harmful not only for Kashmir but also for the Federal Government. These elements must be hunted out and be severely dealt with, he added.

The situation throughout the valley was tense, admitted Mr. Subramanyam adding, for which the Abdullah Government was responsible. But, he said, this government was democratically elected for a specific period and before that period any effort to change or overthrow it are against the norms of democracy, and such an effort made by any quarter, should be condemned.

He suggested that the State Government should not show lemiency in dealing with the miscreants and that with an iron hand.

The reports said the delegation also called on Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah, and discussed the tragic incident with him. The delegation also met President of the Awami Action Committee, Mir Waiz Mohammad Farooq, a delegation of cab drivers and General Secretary of the All Kashmir Pandit Conference.

The Janata delegation also visited, Ual Chowk, Warsha Chowk and other scenes of violent secterian clashes between Hindu and Muslim communities.

Meanwhile, a member of the State Assembly and General Secretary of the Inqilabi National Conference, Ibrahim Dar, a leader of the People's Conference, Nisar Ahmad, and some other local leaders have also held the State Government responsible for clashes.

CSO: 4220

STATES WILL AID GOVERNMENT RIVERLINK PLAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jun 80 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, June 22

The Rs 18,000-crore scheme formulated by the Centre for interlinking rivers and constructing a chain of storage reservoirs for optimum utilisation of water resources for irrigation and power generation on the one hand, and control of floods, on the other, has evoked a favourable response from the State Governments.

They have agreed to cooperate with the Centre in further studies and investigation to enable its early implementation.

This was indicated at the conclusion of the four-day conference of State Irrigation Secretaries and Chief Engineers convened by the Union Irrigation Ministry to go into the "national perspective of water resources development".

Official sources said that there was consensus in favour of the scheme and the general feeling was that the water requirements of various areas within the basin should be assessed realistically and met within a foreseeable future.

It was therefore, agreed that the various reservoirs identified by the Central and the State Governments should be surveyed and investigated most expeditiously.

The State Governments have agreed to provide outline plans of their water development schemes indicating their existing and future water requirements by September. The Central Government, for its part, will take up studies of the possibilities of development within the basins as well as outside to determine the quantum of water to be transferred.

The meeting felt that agreements on allocation of water to different areas would have to be reached within the broad framework of a national policy for development and use of water.

MULTIPURPOSE DEVELOPMENT

In view of the decision taken by the Government of India to realise an irrigation potential of 110 million hectares by 2000 A.D. it was felt that the peninsular river development part of the national scheme envisaging an additional potential of 10 to 15 million hectares over and above the 110 million hectares would need to be investigated and agreements reached on water allocations at the earliest so that the national scheme could be integrated with the programmes of the States for irrigation development.

The scheme would be so phased that the benefits of hydro-power generation were realised at the earliest along with benefits of irrigation by gravity flow.

The national scheme envisages essentially a multipurpose development of water resources, transcending the political boundaries for the benefit of irrigation, hydro-power generation, flood control, navigation and environmental preservation.

It envisages the building up of as many storage dams as possible to conserve the waters for beneficial use as well as control floods. It also foresees transfer of surplus waters to drought-prone and backward areas by interlinking various river systems. The transfer will be made after the reasonable needs of the States in the foreseeable future are met.

WEST BENGAL FINANCE MINISTER ON DEVELOPMENT WORK

[New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Jan 80 pp II, 12]

[Article by Ashok Mitra, minister for finance]

[Text]

DURING this year, the economy of West Bengal, along with that of the rest of the nation, has been dominated by two phenomena. The first is the widespread drought which followed close on the heels of the worst floods to afflict the State in this century. Several districts in West Bengal were ravaged by the drought. People in the most drought-prone districts, such as Purulia and Bankura, were particularly severely affected. The jute crop withered away over a wide area; the paddy crops also suffered heavily. There was loss of work for millions of our toiling masses, and widespread shortage of both drinking and irrigation water. The economy of rural Bengal was grossly depleted as a consequence.

However, given the will and determination of the people, the enthusiastic leadership displayed by the Panchayat bodies and the active co-operation of the State Government and its agencies at various levels, we were able to meet successfully the challenge of the drought as well. Relief work was organised with meticulous care in hundreds of villages. Emergency operations, particularly in regard to water supply, were taken on hand. Food for work and rural works programmes were organised on a massive scale to create work and ensure the supply of food in the interior of the districts. The scale of gratuitous relief was substantially enlarged. Crash cultivation programmes as well as special irrigation projects were undertaken, and the distribution of shortterm credit, seeds and other inputs was arranged.

On the recommendations of two Central study teams, advance Plan assistance of the order of Rs 14.1 crores has been sanctioned for our State for drought relief operations during the year. The actual expenditure is, however, likely to exceed this amount. Besides, till today, no actual allotments of funds have been received from the Centre against this sanctioned amount. Thus, the entire drought relief operation has been mounted and sustained by the State Government on its own.

Floods and droughts are natural phenomena, and, if the economy is affected thereby, one has to accept such fate with a certain equanimity. This equanimity cannot be brought to bear where human misery is the result of deliberate mistakes—or worse — on the part of human agencies. I have in mind the rampant price increase which has taken place throughout the current year because of policies pursued by the Centre. It was an extraordinary demonstration of concerted attack on the standards of living of the common people. Prices were allowed to rise by nearly 20 per cent in the course of a mere half-year period. This inflationary spurt was unleashed by the series of imposts on a number of basic goods and essential consumer articles, introduced through the Union budget presented in February 1979, and was compounded by the subsequent administrative increases in the prices of coal, kerosene, diesel oil and other petroleum products. For certain months during 1979, there was also a near-total abdication of monetary policy on the part of the Union Government. Money supply was allowed to increase unhindered. Most of the extra credit were cornered by the trading and speculative elements. The policy of unrestricted subsidies for traders, exporters, big landlords and rich peasants, leading to an enlargement of the budgetary deficit at the Centre, aggravated the situation.

Such a price increase was altogether uncalled for. Even after the folly of the Union budget had been perpetrated, the inflation could have been halted if the Centre had used its massive stockpile of more than 20 million tonnes of foodgrains for distribution among the vulnerable sections ei-

ther through the network of the public distribution system or through the food for work programme. The Centre could not however, be persuaded to allocate more than two million tonnes of foodgrains for the food for work programme during the year; total stocks of foodgrains remain more or less what they were 12 months ago. Even the foodgrains allotted for release under the food for work programme failed to reach their destination. Similarly given the comfortable foreign exchange position, if the Centre had moved quickly and imported additional quantities of the commodities in short supply, such as petroleum products, the price increase could have held in leash. What was however most noteworthy during all these months was the atrophy in overall economic policy-making at the Centre. The dismantling of all price and distribution controls on sugar, despite the developing crisis on the price front, illustrates the point only too strikingly. And the suffering of the people was compounded by the virtual breakdown of rail and road movements, leading to prolonged shortage of basic and essential commodities all over the State.

The State Government tried its utmost to raise the collective conscience of the nation against the scourge of inflation and the disruption of essential supplies. Millions and millions of those belonging to the working and middle classes have been affected by the inflation; they have been left defenceless in the face of the determined policy of the Central administration to raise prices across-the-board and thus help the richer classes. Our Chief Minister presented in September last a programme of action so that inflation could be contained and the common people receive some relief. It would, I feel, be useful to summarise here the essential elements of that programme: (a) the Union Government must introduce a comprehensive system of public procurement and distribution covering the major cereals, pulses, salt, sugar, textiles, edible oils, kerosene, diesel oil, match boxes, paper, and washing soap; (b) these commodities be sold at a uniform price all over the country; (c) a special fund of Rs 500 crores be set aside to subsidise the public procurement-cum-distribution operations; (d) foreign exchange to the extent of Rs 1000 crores be earmarked for essential imports; (e) exports of food articles, including sugar, and of other scarce commodities, be banned forthwith; (f) 50 per cent of the total output of sugar be reserved for public distribution and the entire sum indicated in the Union Government budget for subsidising sugar exports be directed for supplying sugar to the public at Rs 2.50 per kilogramme; (g) the status quo ante as obtaining in the prices of coal, textiles, petroleum products, match boxes, etc., prior to the presentation of the Union budget in February, 1979, be restored and excise duties imposed by the Centre on these commodities be withdrawn; (h) all imports of oils and edible oils be channelled through the public distribution system; (i) a sharp curtailment of credit to the monopoly industrial houses; and (j) massive releases of foodgrains from the Central stockpile through the public distribution system and through food for work programmes.

It will be our constant endeavour to impress upon the new administration at the Centre the crucial importance of the measures indicated by us; we also propose to launch an unrelenting mass campaign to mobilize public opinion on this issue. At the same time, we intend to continue to supply a limited range of basic commodities to the public on the basis of our own resources. We have already urged the State Essential Commodities Supply Corporation to streamline its activities and to utilise its existing funds, along with whatever resources it can command from the banking sector, for expanding the distribution of pulses, edible oils, sugar and a number of other essential commodities even where no Union Government initiatives are forthcoming. The fullest use is also proposed to be made of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, the Storage Control Orders and the Prices and Stocks Display Orders to enforce the maximum price discipline, both at the wholesale and at the retail levels. Administrative steps have been taken against those dealers and businessmen who were in the habit of not getting their consignments released from rail wagons; such actions will continue, and there will be mobilization of people mass organizations to check the nefarious doings of profiteers. But since the most essential articles are either imported or despatched from other States, the State Government is beyond a point under severe handicap unless the responsibility for ensuring regular supplies and regular rail movements is assumed and fulfilled by the Centre. Even the banking sector, which regulates credit-including credit advanced to speculators, is under the complete

domain of the Union Government.

[illegible] have affected economic activities for the entire nation, and have also affected adversely the scale of activities in this State. Nonetheless, I am happy to report that by and large we have succeeded in maintaining the tempo of economic growth in the State. Both agricultural and industrial output, according to present expectations, would increase and there should be a modest increase in the level of per capita income. This is a most creditable achievement, more so since, for [illegible] during the year, there has been an acute scarcity of basic commodities, including steel, cement and other building materials, apart from the difficulties on the power front. If nonetheless the State's economy has been able to maintain its progress, that has been made possible by our determined effort to enlarge the size of Plan expenditure. This additional outlay has enabled us to accelerate the pace of development work in practically all sectors of the State's economy despite the drought, scarcity of materials and spiralling prices. If only a corresponding augmentation of activities in the Central sector of the plan and in private activities were to occur, economic growth in the State could have attained an even more satisfactory rate. As far as this latter aspect is concerned, other factors, have continued to cast their shadow. Central investments in the eastern region, including in West Bengal, have been persistently lagging behind. I am not minimizing other problems, nor am I ignoring the inherent limitations of the feudal-capitalist framework, but it is principally the Union Government's policies, such as with respect to freight equalisation, which have continued to inhibit private activity. Concerted efforts on the part of the State Government notwithstanding, banks and other public financial institutions, which are under the control of the Union Government, have maintained their policy of discrimination against the eastern region, and also against the poorer sections of the community. Since these issues vitally concern the life and living of the people in the eastern parts and in this State, we propose to raise them afresh with the new administration at the Centre.

When we lay stress on the importance of a thoroughgoing realignment of Centre-States relations, we do it for concrete historical reasons. Despite nearly 30 years of planned endeavour, the record of economic performance in our country is about the poorest even among the Third World. The average annual increase in per capita income works out to only a little more than 1 per cent for this entire period. What is worse, even this modest growth has been extremely unevenly distributed between regions and States. The ever-growing unemployment, of which millions of our youth are hapless victims, is a glaring consequence of this retarded and lop-sided growth. Is it not time that a dispassionate analysis is made of this distressingly poor economic performance and alternative strategies thought of? According to one weighty body of opinion, a major reason for the near stagnancy in growth is the over-concentration of decision-making along with the over-concentration of control over economic and financial resources at the Centre. This has resulted in a slow and cumbersome procedure for the

[illegible] it has also ensured a less than optimal return from a given bundle of resources. And, over the years, by sustaining the rule of those in power at the Centre, it has resulted in the germination of a climate in which all dissent is suspect and the least suggestion of dissident views provokes the diversion of scarce resources for administrative purposes, such as for financing the instruments of oppression, leading to a further erosion of the potential of growth in the system. If the Indian economy is to be retrieved and the masses of the Indian population are to begin to enjoy a share of the growing prosperity which is the heritage of the rest of the world's population, the consideration of alternative modalities of growth, featured by a larger order of diffusion of economic decision-making and of resource deployment, must not be rejected out of hand.

We would thus continue with renewed vigour our efforts at reordering the structure of Centre-States relations, including financial and economic ones. We are equally determined to ensure that, even under the existing Constitutional arrangements, whatever resources legitimately belong to the States do come to the States.

Meanwhile, we propose to raise further the tempo of developmental activity in the State by expending upon whatever resources we can raise on our own.

[illegible] 4220

WEST BENGAL MINISTER ON AID TO BACKWARD CLASSES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Jun 80 p 12

[Article by Dr Sambhu Mandi, minister of state]

[Text] The Left Front Government in West Bengal is pledged to the uplift of the weaker sections, including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State. A number of new schemes intended for providing financial relief to the poorer Scheduled Castes and Tribes people have been incorporated in the Annual Plan for 1979-80. These schemes have been introduced in the backward Classes Sector.

A new scheme for providing agricultural subsidy to the Scheduled Caste and Tribes sharecroppers and marginal farmers has been undertaken. A total sum of Rs 22 lakhs will be provided to agriculturists for purchase of seeds, manures, implements etc. Besides, to prevent alienation of land from the Scheduled Tribes another new scheme for purchase of Tribal land in suitable cases, by the Government has been introduced.

To offer better chances in Government services to Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the State Government has enacted the West Bengal Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act 1976. Under this Act the following measures have been taken by the Left Front Government: 1) In case of nonavailability of Scheduled Caste and Tribe candidates for filling up reserved vacancies by promotion, the reserved occurs as per roster; 2) Scheduled Caste and Tribe candidates selected on their own merit shall vacancy will be carried forward till the next reserved vacancy be reckoned against general vacancies [as published] and 3) Lastly, steps have been taken to introduce such reservations in the Higher Judicial Service.

In the rural areas schemes have been undertaken to provide ashram hostels for the backward class students at the primary stage belonging to the families with income not exceeding Rs 3,600 per annum. In these Government controlled hostels there is arrangement for free supply of meals, clothings, books, medicines and also special coaching. Students at the

secondary stage from the same income-group families now get Rs 20 per month as maintenance grant. The Government also pays hostle charge to all eligible Scheduled Caste and Tribe hostellers of lower income group. The rate of hostel charges has been enhanced to with the rising price-index. The Government has also sanctioned grants-in-aid for construction of hostel buildings and has sanctioned book-grants for the S.C. and S.T. students.

A special component plan for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes families of this State has been formulated with outlays earmarked in 1979-80 Annual Plan.

For the tribals integrated tribal development projects are being executed in tribal subplan areas. To save the tribal people from exploitation, credit is being provided both for production and consumption, arrangement is being made for marketing of their agricultural and forest produce as also for supply of essential commodities at fair price. Private contractors are being made for marketing of their agricultural and forest produce as also for supply of essential commodities at fair price. Private contractors are being gradually eliminated in collection and marketing of their produce. [as published] The projects have been undertaken by the West Bengal Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Ltd and its affiliated 52 LAMPS. The business of this corporation has increased from Rs 1,93,125 in 1976-77 to Rs 52,46,[three figures illegible] in 1979-80 (upto 22.5.80). Recently the Government has sanctioned an expenditure of nearly Rs 6 lakhs for execution of eight animal husbandry schemes in the integrated tribal development project districts.

The West Bengal Scheduled Castes Development and Finance Corporation Act has recently been amended to bring also the Tribals into its fold. The Corporation (rechristened as the West Bengal Scheduled Castes and Tribes Development and Finance Corporation), functioning from 1979-80 has so far granted loans to the tune of Rs 10,54,310/- alloted for 585 beneficiaries. It has also generated institutional finance from Commercial Bank amounting to Rs 2,91,563.

Along with the above measures, the Government has also taken steps to properly strengthen the administration to ensure that the benefits of these programmes actually accrue to the needy people and the misuse of the fund is avoided.

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WEST BENGAL COMMERCE MINISTER ON INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Jun 80 p 11

[Article by Dr Kanai Lal Bhattacharya, minister for commerce and industries]

[Text]

IN the field of commerce and industries, it should be remembered that the activities of the State Government are subject to the overall industrial licensing policy of the Central Government. Yet, after the Left Front Government came to power, there occurred a spurt both in the matter of the issue of industrial approvals for various projects in the State as well as in the implementation of approved industrial projects. It may also be seen that from 22, June 1977, to 30, April 1980, the Central approvals were received for 277 projects involving an investment of about Rs 467.51 crores. While, thus, the trend of fresh approvals has been clearly on the increase, as many as 153 projects involving an investment of Rs 116.23 crores were implemented between 1977 and 1979. These included various projects relating to domestic gas metre, camera, cotton and blended fabric processing, automatic break equipment, ball bearing, foreign extrusion presses, mini steel plants, industrial gases, paper, rubber, chemicals, stainless steel etc. etc.

It is expected that another 94 projects involving an investment of Rs 332 crores are likely to be implemented during 1980-81. It is also notable that the sanction of financial assistance by the All-India financial institutions for industrial projects in West Bengal stood at Rs 136.45 crores in 1978-79 showing an increase of nearly 62 per cent over the amount of Rs 84.26 corres sanctioned in the previous year.

The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. for larger and medium scale industries has sanctioned Rs 17 crores in 1979-80 as against Rs 10.24 crores in the previous year. Thus the increase in the industrial activities in the State has a direct effect on the total employment picture in the organised sector — and it has been evident by the fact that during the period from April '77 to March '79, employment in the organised sector in West Bengal increased by 32,000.

The Left Front Government has laid special emphasis on the dispersal of industrial units in backward areas. Steps have been taken to develop as industrial growth centres in such areas as Kalyani, Kharagpur and Haldia, and about 274 acres of land have been allotted to 33 new units coming up in these new growth centres. Increasing activities have been noticeable in other different Corporation such as West Bengal Industrial Infrastucture Development Corporation, West Bengal Tea Development Corporation, West Bengal Mineral Development and Training Corporation, West Bengal Pharmaceutical and Phyto-Chemical Development Corporation, West Bengal Sugar Industries Development Corporation etc. etc.

In order to help the cottage and small-scale industries, the tasks mainly relate in getting bank loan, raw materials, marketing, electricity etc. A major problem is that, for granting loans, the banks demand "colateral security". But it is not possible for many entrepreneurs of the States to comply with the same, and as a result, many industries could not be set up owing to failure of securing required capital. It may be noted that as regards raw materials the State Government has, in fact no control over the supply for the same. All these raw materials on which the control has been imposed by the Central Government, are not distributed with the States in keeping with any National policy. For example, only 15.5 per cent of steel, and 16.5 per cent of pig iron and 2.86 per cent of Mutton Tallow and Fatty Acid of our requirements have been allocated by

the Central Government during 1979-80. Under the circumstances, in most of the cases, the industrial units of the States are forced to buy raw materials from the market at a much higher prices, thus affecting the development and expansion of industries.

In spite of all these problems, the Left Front Government has made considerable progress in the sphere of cottage and small scale industries. During the last three years, it has been possible to render employment over lakhs of people in the S.S.I., handlooms and sericulture sectors. In the year 1979-80, only in respect of cottage and small-scale industries sector, proposals for granting loans to 6850 units of the 15 districts of the State excluding Calcutta involving capital investment of Rs 59 crores were sent to the bank. Through intensive campaigns, it has been possible to obtain approval of loan proposals of 4158 units involving capital investment of over 30 crores from the bank during that period. As a result additional employment to 28432 persons is being created. During that period, the Ancillary Committee of Durgapur-Asansol region has achieved success in getting some orders for the S.S.I. units from the big industrial units. With a view to extending the marketing facilities of cottage and small scale industries in the villages, a new scheme for setting up of marketing outlets through the Panchayat Samities has been taken up.

The West Bengal State Leather Industries Development Corporation has obtained letter of intent of a project for production of 2880 tonnes leather board per year from the rejected leather and leather dust with an estimated cost of Rs 3.19 crores. Arrangements are being made for speedy implementation of the above scheme. Besides this work of further 39 projects is also under different stages of implementation.

By extending handloom weavers co-operative societies, it has been possible to increase the number of handlooms under the co-operative sectors from 23 per cent to 31 per cent during the periods in question.

The work relating to the setting up of six co-operative societies with the help of loomless weavers has already been started. One hosiery factory in the co-operative fold has already been set up for the first time in the State. Achievements in the sericulture sector deserve special mention. The mulberry production has been increased and the improved variety of silk has already fetched a good market. Training in beekeeping in a new way has started in Maldah and Murshidabad, while production of carpet and umbrella in the hill sectors in Darjeeling has already gained momentum.

In spite of limited resources, steps have been taken to revive and repoen as many closed and sick industrial units in the State as possible. It may be remembered that the State Government has to function within the limitation under which the power for the takeover of the management of any unit lies with the Central Government under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951. Such takeover of the management of any unit is permitted by the Central Government if the State is willing to bear full financial and managerial responsibilities. It should be admitted that at the background of the meager resource position of the State, this appears to be an uphill task.

Through some measures about 35 industrial units involving 24,929 employees have been revived and re-opened at the intervension of the Government. During 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80, the closed and sick industries department had incurred a total expenditure of about Rs 5 crores, Rs 6 crores and Rs 5.70 crores.

WEST BENGAL LAND REFORMS MINISTER DESCRIBES PROGRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Jun 80 p 11

[Article by Benoy Choudhury, minister for land reforms]

[Text]

THE Left Front Government of West Bengal is going to complete three years of its regime on 22nd June, 1980. So an objective evaluation of its performance in the field of land reform will be of much help for correctly understanding the significance of the measures taken by the Left Front Government.

At the outset, it should be made quite clear that the objective of the Left Front Government, is not to complete the tasks of the agrarian revolution or for that matter, to eliminate completely feudal and semi-feudal production relations in agriculture. Because that is not at all possible within the framework of the present Constitution and with the very limited power that the State Government enjoys. That objective can only be achieved through a thorough going revolution.

Under the circumstances, taking a pragmatic view, the Left Front Government is taking such measures which will help in enthusing and organising the agricultural workers, bargadars (share croppers) and small peasants — who constitute nearly 75 per cent of the peasantry and who are the real force which can bring about a radical change in the countryside in favour of real land reform. Along with this key task, the Left Front Government is endeavouring to build up a firm alliance with the middle peasantry and is trying to win over a good chunk of the rich peasants so that class enemies in the country side can be effectively isolated and contained.

With the above objectives, the Left Front Government has selected target groups for which appropriate measures are to be taken.

The first target group is agricultural workers. Two urgent problems of this section have been taken up for immediate solution: (I) minimum wage for the agricultural workers, (II) to provide work during the lean months through the 'Food for work scheme. The Government has fixed Rs 8.10 P as minimum wage. Administrative measures have been taken for the implementation of the minimum wage and the agricultural workers are also conducting movement and struggles for getting their dues. As a result wages increased by Rs 2 to Rs 3 every where and in many places the agricultural workers could get Rs 8.10 P as wage. The 'Food for work scheme, implemented through the elected Panchayats, created lakhs of man-days and went a long way to free them from age-old bondage and to ameliorate the condition of the agricultural workers. These measures created enthusiasm amongst them and helped to organise them in large numbers They are increasingly realising that the Left Front Government is their own Government and an identity of interest is growing.

The second target group is bargadars (share-cropper). Their main problem is (i) eviction (ii) protection of rights (iii) institutional finance to free them from age-old bondage of usuary. The Left Front Government has taken measures to tackle all these three problems.

To stop illegal eviction suitable amendments have been made in the Land Reforms Act. From experience, we know that eviction is done mainly by invoking the clause on resumption for self-cultivation. So, in the definition of 'self cultivation three conditions have been introduced: (i) If one intends to resume land for self-cultivation, he will have to prove that his main source of livelihood is from that land (ii) he will have to live within 8 kilometres for the greater part of the year where the land is situated (iii) after resuming he will have to cultivate the land himself or by the labour of his family members. These conditions will go a long way to stop eviction.

So that the bargadars can enjoy the rights conferred by the law. Their names should be legally recorded in the record of rights. For this a time bound programme in the name of "Operation Barga" has been taken up by the Left Front Government. The main features of this "Operation Barga" are to identify the areas, where bargadars are concentrated then to hold evening meetings to encourage and convince them about the necessity and usefulness of recording their names and then to legally record their names by sending a team of officers, who will finish the job of recording within 3 or 4 days by concentrated activities with the help of the local Panchayats. This method proved to be most effective. Where during the last 30 years only 2,75,000 bargadars could be recorded, by adopting this method we have been able to record 5,80,000 bargadars during three years of our regime even though we had been forced to stop our operation for several months due to the devastating flood in 1978, the Panchayat election, and the Lok Sabha election.

Previously, bargadars were subjected to severe exploitation due to consumption and in-put loans by their jotdars. To free them from this bondage, the Left Front Government has introduced institutional finance for the bargadars. The interest of the loan is only 4 per cent where as previously they had to pay interest at the rate of 100 per cent to 150 per cent. If the bargadars pay up their loan within 31st March next year, the interest will be reimbursed by the Left Front Government and the bargadars loan will be interest free. All these measures have a salutary effect on the bargadars and they have become firm supporters of the Left Front Government.

The third target group is the small and middle peasantry. For this group the Left Front Government has introduced schemes to give relief in the matter of rent and debt burden. The Left Front Government, soon after its installation, exempted rent for holders up to 4 acres in irrigated area and up to 6 acres in non-irrigated area and rent of others were reduced to half of what they were paying. This measure went a long way to win over all sections of peasantry, even the rich. Subsequently in the last year an Act was passed abolishing the rent system and introducing land holding levy above landed property worth Rs 50,000/-. The concept of rent is not compatible with the concept of peasant proprietorship because rent is a tribute paid by the tiller of the land to the lord of the land. By this scheme 80 per cent of the land holding is free from any levy. Imposition of levy being on progressive basis—less on lower slab and more on higher slab it is more equitable in principle. This scheme is based on the Raj Committee report though it has been adopted in modified form. The Left Front Government can rightfully claim to be pioneer in this matter in whole of India.

To win over rich peasants, the Left Front Government is trying to see that the peasants get remunerative price for their produce specially commercial crops such as jute, potato etc. whenever, there is precipitate fall in prices of these produce, the Left Front Government comes forward to buy such produce at a price announced by the Government. This prompt measures step up prices.

Besides the measures mentioned above, the Left Front Government has been able to vest additional 2 lakh acres of agricultural land and currently distributing 3,33,000 acres of vested land amongst the landless agricultural workers and land poor peasants, so adding up the previous distribution of 6,14,000 acres, the total land distributed in the State will be 9,47,000 acres, nearly half of what has seen distributed in the whole of India.

The Left Front Government is also recording house sites up to 8 decimals for landless agricultural workers artisans and fishermen who lived there on and from 28th June 1975. This measure will give security about their house sites. They will also be provided with house building loan.

The Left Front Government is also trying to organise service-co-operatives for the allottees of vested land and bargadars. This can go a long way to boost up rural production.

Those, who are serious in socio-economic study, they feel the Left Front Government is doing something worthwhile. ILO observer Shri Bhola Paswan Sastry and many others—who saw for themselves what transformation is going on in the rural economy and social set up in West Bengal, are eloquent with praise for the measures taken. Though not spectacular, the measures have an abiding effect on the country side and the real force of social transformation are on the move.

INTERVIEW WITH LEFTIST WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jun 80 p 8

[Interview with Jyoti Basu, West Bengal chief minister and Marxist leader, with Gautam Adhikari--in Calcutta, date not given]

[Text]

THE CPI-M-led Left Front Government in West Bengal completed three years in power on June 21. When it was sworn in on June 21, 1977, political observers in the country thought a new experiment had commenced and its performance was under close scrutiny from then on. Has the experiment made satisfactory headway? And what is its future? The West Bengal Chief Minister and marxist leader, Mr Jyoti Basu, gave his views in an interview with Gautam Adhikari, our Special Correspondent in Calcutta:

QUESTION: It is customary to start such discussions with a list of plus points. What would you say have been your specific achievements if you start from June 1977 as 'point zero'?

ANSWER: Let us take the rural sector to begin with. Agricultural labourers today have work almost all the year round. Thanks to Operation Barga, over eight lakh sharecroppers have been recorded and that means they now enjoy legal rights which had hitherto existed only on paper. Some delays have occurred because of court cases but definite progress has been made. Then, lakhs of peasants have been exempted from paying land revenue.

"We handled flood crisis with a fair amount of success"

You should also take into account the unprecedented flood devastation of 1978 which called for a massive reconstruction effort and you will admit we handled that crisis with a fair amount of success.

In the cities, every section of the working class knows that we have stood by them. They have had pay rises and their democratic rights have been assured. Government employees have been given trade union rights, even policemen can have their own associations, teachers get higher emoluments now and we have introduced free education up to Class X. Soon education will be free up to Class XII and lakhs of poor families can thus send their children to school.

Examinations are at last being held on time and results are being published on time — you have to contrast this situation with the past to appreciate our achievement despite the drawbacks that undoubtedly persist.

New industrial centres have been set up in the districts and we have planned for modern industries — in electronics, petrochemicals — but this depends on the helpfulness or otherwise of the Union Government also. So, actually we are still in the planning stage in most cases.

Q: There has not been awful lot of fresh investment in industry in the last three years, you'll admit.

A: Investment depends on the industrial climate and that includes the entire economy. The state of the

country's economy is not good. In West Bengal, unfortunately, there has been added hesitation because of the power constraint. There are various reasons really. But we are expecting improvements by the end of this year.

Q: Placing yourself in the role of a critic for a moment, where have you fallen short of expectation?

A: We go on saying we are satisfied, but there are quite a few drawbacks and negative features. Of course, there are various reasons for this, as I told you before. Nevertheless, you know, sometimes I get this feeling that we have not been able to motivate people sufficien y. This is a nagging problem.

Then there are other factors like uncertainty in raw material supply, railway movements and such extraneous factors. But on our part too, I must admit, we have not been able to instil motivation to the extent desirable.

Q: Would you say that is the single major drawback of your Government?

"Single biggest shortcoming has been on the power front"

A: Well...No. The single biggest shortcoming has been on the power front though there also motivation has played its part. However, when criticising us on the power situation, you must remember that we inherited a terrible legacy. I think that should bear constant repeating.

Moreover, take the present — the erratic quality and supply of coal for the plants, the problem of spares. For example the fourth unit at Santaldih was to have been completed two months ago and that would have given us enough time to test its operation and run it for commercial use by the end of this year. But the spares factory at Kota has been on strike for two and a half months and the 35 people who have come from there to work with us are also naturally on strike.

Criticism can also be levelled against our performance on the medical front. A glaring instance here, apart from the generally unsatisfactory conditions in the big hospitals, is that we have 400 rural health centres without any doctors. Why is this so? First, because we have to depend on the Public Service Commission for appointments and then because only 30 per cent of those posted to such centres actually report for duty. So now we are thinking in terms of introducing some degree of compulsion.

Q: The transport sector?

"We are learning from our experience"

A: Yes. Transport. You can criticise us but do remember that on our part we introduced 300 new buses. On the other hand, the private sector at the same time has withdrawn 300 buses. That has taken us back to square one.

Q: Would you consider your experiment to be by and large successful?

A: Yes, certainly. But we are learning from our experience. Experiments are not miracles and experience is making us wiser every day. For a State Government in the present structure, spectacular achievements are difficult. That is why we have been emphasising the need to review centre-State relations.

Q: Towards expanding the concept of a Left Front on a more widespread, even national basis, what progress have you made? Has the West Bengal experiment encouraged the growth of the concept?

A: I am afraid, no. We have not made much progress, I regret to say. The West Bengal experience has enthused people to a certain extent but it has not really been reflected elsewhere.

Q: Why?

A: One important reason is a political one. There has been a complete break up of Opposition parties. Every other day they are coming up with new alignments — no stable alliances — and that is not the best thing that could happen for expanding our concept. So, we have not made the headway we wanted. Except that in the last election the CPI(M), the CPI and other left parties fought together and this is undoubtedly a Left Front. But it is too narrow a base — it has to be expanded or else we shall remain where we are.

Q: How would you describe your performance in the last State Assembly election?. A pedestrian success?

A: I think our Tamil Nadu success was a grand success. The unity of the AIADMK and the CPI—CPI(M) was of immense help and we are all hoping it will be maintained. This victory, you will see, will have repurcussions all over India. From the Government side, I shall certainly try for closer contact with that (Tamil Nadu) Government.

Q: Are you encouraged by Mr. M. G. Ramachandran's views on Centre-State relations?

"Kerala, Tripura and W. Bengal are working together to formulate an alternative economic policy in the national perspective"

A: I am very happy that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has emphasised the importance of reviewing Centre State relations. This has always been our policy. In fact, I will tell you something. On economic policy — the Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal Governments are working together to formulate an alternative economic policy in the national perspective. We shall be happy if other parties in power in the States — other than the Congress I — can join our efforts — Tamil Nadu Government, for instance.

Q: Do you think you can last long? What about the charges of corruption levelled by Mr. Sanjay Gandhi?

A: Oh, I have already commented on that. There will be slander against us. We shall bring up the matter in Parliament through a privilege motion.

Q: Finally, where do you go from here? Is this route of change towards socialism a feasible one for the Indian people?

A: Time will tell. We are working for the implementation of real scientific socialism in India. But the present set up is so very feudal-capitalist that we have a long way to go.

CSO: 4220

COMMENTARY ON AIR'S MEDIA POLICY FOR NORTHEAST

[Editorial "AIR Policy for the North-East" from THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jun 80 p 8]

[Article by S. L. Shakdher: "A Media Policy for the North-East"]

[Text] I revert to the subject of communicating with the people of the north-eastern region because, apart from AIR's present predicament, it is an issue of much wider concern. In the immediate context of disturbed conditions in the region, the effectiveness and credibility of broadcasting are in test. In the larger perspective, however, the functioning of the total media system and the communication policy need to be reviewed.

The widespread agitation and incidents of communal violence in Assam and the stir in other parts of the region such as Meghalaya and Manipur underscore the problem. If recent events are viewed from the angle of the geo-social characteristics of the region and the physical as well as psychological isolation of its inhabitants, the importance of the communication system cannot be overemphasised.

The region borders China, Burma and Bangladesh. The only physical connection link with the rest of the country is a corridor about 25 miles wide. The people living in the five states of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura and in the two Union territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram belong to several ethnic groups which claim their origin to Austro-Asiatics, Nagas, Mizo-Kukis, Indo-Burmese, Indo-Tibetans, Kuki-Lushais, Khasis, Chakmas, Mon-Khmers and Indo-Aryans.

Social Behaviour

In their occupations and social behaviour these people have been influenced by ecological factors. Of the total population of about 18 million [illegible] in the entire region, 3.9 million belong to one tribe or another. The urban population exposed to any sophistication in interaction is only 10 percent. The rest of the people live in villages, 70 percent of them on agriculture. More than half a dozen principal languages and scores of minority dialects are spoken in the region. While a majority of the people living in the plains are Hindus or Muslims, a very

NAGALAND CHIEF RULES OUT ASSAM-TYPE MOVEMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Jun 85 p 5

[Text]

CALCUTTA, June 24 (UNI).

REFUGEES from Burma have spilled over to Nagaland in the past few days due to 'troubled' situation on the other side of the border, Chief Minister of Nagaland J B Jasokie said today.

Mr Jasokie told newsmen on arrival at Calcutta airport from Kohima that 150 of the refugees who had come over were all Burmese nationals of Naga origin belonging to Khemunga tribe inhabiting the other side of the Naga-land border.

The refugees, according to reports, were all victims of attacks by a group of underground Nagas, led by Mr Mouviah and one of their villages, Kamp, was burnt down, he said. The Mouviah group of the underground was reportedly trying to dominate the people of Naga origin inhabiting the region, Mr Jasokie told a questioner.

All the refugees who had been provided with temporary shelter and other rehabilitation facilities by the Nagaland Government would be sent back as soon as the situation on the other side of the border improved, he said.

Mr Jasokie told a questioner that the Government had taken all precautionary measures and strengthened the border forces to prevent any infilteration of armed underground, now camping outside the border, towards Nagaland and the Government was prepared to meet the situation, he added.

He said the Mouviah group had received Chinese arms and training long ago but that did not mean that the were necessarily pro-China.

Mr Jasokie ruled out any Assam-type movement over "foreigners" in Nagaland. The Government was implementing the inner line permit system for entry of people into Nagaland and hence there was no possibility of such a movement, he said. He would favour continuation of strict enforcement of the permit system, he added.

TALKS ON ASSAM ISSUE BOGGED DOWN

[BK180713] Hong Kong AFP in English 2020 GMT 18 Aug 80

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 13 (AFP)--Formal talks between representatives of the government and leaders of the Assam agitation, against immigrant settlers, got bogged down this evening on the question of total withdrawal of all repressive measures, including action against government employees who participated in the agitation before touching on the basic issue, PTI News Agency reports from Shillong said tonight.

PTI quoted Yogendra Makwana, junior interior minister in Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government, as saying that the agitation leaders tried to put preconditions before any fruitful discussions could be reached on the main issue of immigrants in the state.

While the government was not rigid in its approach and was prepared to discuss with the agitation leaders the issue of "foreign" nationals, there was "no matching response from them," he told the press after the meeting.

However, the doors for talks are always open, he added. The leaders of the agitation, who briefed the press at the end of the talks, made it clear that until all the remaining repressive measures were completely withdrawn they could not take part in any discussion on the main issue.

They said their delegation [word indistinct] registered their protest against the noninclusion of the Manipur chief minister, Dorendra Singh, who was instrumental in bringing the two parties to the negotiating table in today's talks.

Mr Makwana said that the agitation leaders not only insisted on the withdrawal of all criminal cases, including those relating to acts of violence, but also objected to the presence of some of his officers assisting him in the talks.

He said that the agitation leaders, by putting precondition on these matters, were only side-tracking the main issue of foreign nationals. The All-Assam Students Union and another organization, which spearheaded

[illegible] in the Trinidadian state, the reports said, [illegible] a [illegible] minister to be fulfilled in [illegible] to discuss the main [illegible]

[illegible] with the withdrawal of all the remaining disciplinary proceedings against government employees, including revocation of suspension and [illegible] orders of pay-roll and punitive transfers, revocation of the warrants of arrest pending against 19 more persons and the withdrawal of all criminal cases, as well as all actions against federal government employees the state who participated in the agitation. [as received]

The [illegible] agitation demanding detention and deportation of millions of immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal had withdrawn early this month [illegible] consultations between the agitation leaders and the government.

[illegible]

WRITER SAYS LAND CAUSE OF TENSION IN TRIPURA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 16

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text] AGARTALA, June 22.—Land is one of the main sources of the tension building up between tribals and non-tribals for over two decades in Tripura. Gradual alienation of tribals from their land—93% of whom are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood—has made them psychologically and economically insecure.

A host of historical factors, including frequent outbreaks of communal violence in former East Bengal, partition and the Tripura Raj's open-door policy towards the Bengalis (mainly because of its close identification with the Bengali culture and ethos) caused a massive influx of Bengalis to Tripura. Their sheer number eventually was to give rise to numerous socio-economic problems which helped a simmering discontent to reach the present flash point.

It is not difficult to understand the impact of the influx on a State which is less than one-third the size of West Bengal, 60% of whose land area is hilly. A big portion of the rest of the area is hilly land where round-the-year cultivation is not possible. It is in this 40% area available for agriculture where two-thirds of the State's 1.9 million people live.

The growing quest for land and various other factors have rendered, according to State Government figures, 92% of the 250,194 land holdings in the State uneconomic. Land holdings up to two hectares are uneconomic in Tripura. About 115,000 or roughly 50% of the holdings are between half and two hectares. Apart from uneconomic holdings almost the whole of the State is a single-crop area. Although there has been no dearth of water till now, less than 10% of the cultivable land has assured irrigation facilities. Limited diversification of the cropping pattern has begun only recently.

Alienation of tribals from their land has been the direct result of partition. Many of Tripura's present problems emanate from the cessation to Pakistan of the rich Chakla Roshanabad zamindary, comprising Comilla and parts of Noakhali and Sylhet, which brought in Rs 30 lakhs of the Raj's Rs 40-lakh annual revenue. It was only after the partition that the present Tripura, known as hill Tipperah a sparsely populated and predominantly tribal area during the Tripura Raj, that the population rose almost at a geometrical rate, vastly changing its demographic character.

Within a decade after partition the State was swamped by non-tribals. In 1951, the State's population was 640,000, a growth of about 25% over the 1941 census figure of 513,000. The tribals in 1961 were about 238,000. But by 1981, Tripura's population had soared to 1.143 million (a growth of about 78.72%) of which the tribals were only 380,070. It was because of the persecution of minorities in erstwhile East Pakistan and comparatively better settlement prospects in Tripura than West Bengal or in the neighbouring North-eastern States that the influx of the refugees into the State was so heavy between this period. Between 1961 and 1971 the population growth was not insignificant —36.30%.

Even before partition, the magnanimous Hindu Maharaja, Birbikram Kishore Manikya, had brought many victims of communal riots to Tripura and had them settled in colonies built for them. During the 1939 Rajpura riot, the Maharaja had personally led a flag march of the First Tripura Rifles and had camped beyond Akhaura. He personally invited the riot victims to settle in hill Tipperah. His offer was that the settlers could

reclaim land by clearing forests and then apply for settlement. This was usually granted. A liberal land tenure system called "Mirsa" was introduced under which the settlers had to pay no rent or commission to the Raj. This move stemmed not only from the Raj's concern for the riot victims but also from its desire to reclaim more land from forests.

When the non-tribals began coming to hill Tipperah in large numbers, the tribals were mostly doing jhum cultivation. They were free to move, settle and cultivate land anywhere they pleased. Individual tribal sardars possessed vast areas, sometimes running into 1,000 square kilometres. A big part of this land was usually under forests. Very little of even the cleared area was under cultivation.

It was the manner of transfer of this land from tribal to non-tribal which has given much to the present hatred and tension between the two communities. There were transactions like "dakhal bikri" or sale of possession in which the tribal was given a receipt for the land though the price paid was nominal. The tribals were happy with what they got.

But the most despicable manner of transfers came about when non-tribal moneylenders and petty traders started going into the interior areas. The moneylender gave tribals loans against their land. The rate of interest charged, in many cases it was 100%. For a Rs 200 loan, five bighas of land had to be mortgaged. Land had to be mortgaged with traders also for a few seers of salt, a scarce and much-sought after commodity in the remote tribal areas. Default to pay back the loan in cash or in kind resulted, in most cases, in forced transfers of land. This practice, however, was confined not only to the non-tribals but also among the rich tribal landlords. Various papers were prepared for effecting the sale. And in those cases where land was not transferred, the tribal remained bound to the mahajan for good.

How widespread and effective this method had been in alienating the tribals from their land can be gauged from the official reports of the Tripura Government. In 1968, the Chief Commissioner asked an additional district magistrate of Tripura district to inquire into numerous complaints of such illegal transfers. According to the investigation, 80% of the land in Kanchanpur area in north Tripura had been grabbed by the non-tribals by unscrupulous and fraudulent means. Almost the same was the case in the Dasoda and Anandabazar areas. In some pockets, according to him, small numbers of non-tribals possessed and controlled a disproportionately large area.

The Tribal Research Bureau of the State Government, in a random survey in 1974, found in the Mohanpur block, near Agartala, that 36.5% of the tribal residents were suffering from land alienation and over 81% were heavily indebted to the village moneylender.

It was only in 1963 that Tripura's first ever proper settlement and land regularization exercise began. The law now provides, under various land reforms and restoration acts, that all land illegally transferred after January 1, 1969, should be restored suo moto to the tribals. Out of 4,810 valid cases of restoration that the State Government has so far approved, 1,439 cases involving an area of 1,281 acres have been physically restored to the tribals.

But one of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity's demands is that since the maximum illegal transfers took place soon after partition, the cut-off year for restoration be refixed at the date of the State's accession to India. It was mainly to counter the threat of [illegible] dispossession of land of Bengali non-tribals, who once before were forced to flee their homes after partition, that the Amra Bangali was born in Tripura in 1978.

BRIEFS

FLOOD SITUATION IN ASSAM--In Assam, the flood situation has worsened further as the Brahmaputra and its tributaries continue to create havoc by inundating extensive areas. Several lakas of people in the seven Brahmaputra Valley districts of the state have been affected. The national highway has been submerged at several points between Gauhati and Dibrugarh leading to the suspension of vehicular traffic. Dibrugarh and Sibsagar districts of the state are reported to be the worst affected. The state government has so far sanctioned 15 lakh rupees for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims. It is also decided to sanction another 30 lakh rupees to make up the agricultural loss and to meet the health hazards caused by the flood a number of reliefs camps have also been opened at different places for providing shelter to the flood victims. [Text] [BK190915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 80]

FLOOD SITUATION IN UTTAR PRADESH, BIHAR--The flood situation in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam has worsened with all major rivers in these states continuing their rising trend. In Uttar Pradesh, standing crops in thousands of hectares of land have been submerged. In Ghazipur District alone over 20,00 [as received] hectares of paddy fields are under water. In Balia District the overflowing Gagra has affected about 30,000 hectares of paddy fields. The Jamuna is reported to be posing serious threat to Ittawa District. In Bihar, nearly 1 million people have been affected and about 450,000 hectares of standing crops damaged. News agencies report quoting official spokesman say that 14 out of 31 districts in the state are in the grip of floods. Reports from Gauhati say that in Assam the Brahmaputra and its tributaries continue to flow above the danger level. The army is reported to have been alerted in west Bengal as all the rivers are in high spate with the Bhagirathi rising above the danger mark in the Farakka region. [Text] [BK140419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 80]

'RESTRAINT' IN REPORTING VIOLENCE--The annual session of the All India Newspaper Editors Conference [AINEC] which met in New Delhi today, has expressed grave concern over the recent trend toward growing violence

in public life. In a resolution it has noted with distress that some newspapers are magnifying them. It has urged newspapers, news agencies and other media to exercise self-restraint in the reporting and presentation of news regarding civil disorder. They should bear in mind the need for the cultivation of harmonious relations between various sections of the people and the paramount obligation of the press to contribute in a positive way to the restoration and maintenance of peaceful conditions in the country. The resolution says that no casualty figure should be circulated and published without the fullest verification. The AINEC, which is the premier editors body in the country, feels that the names of victims in any communal riot should not be mentioned. Also publication of names of rape victims and their photograph should be avoided. Earlier, opening the conference Home Minister Zail Singh appealed to the newspaper editors to exercise restraint while publishing reports of violence and rape. He said failure of the administration should be pointed out, but while doing so, care should be taken not to cause more trouble. [Text] [BK161640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 80]

FORMER MINISTER DIES--Bombay, June 22:--Mr T.D. Parvekar, Congress(I) MLA of Yavatmal and an ex-minister, popularly known as Abasaheb Parvekar, died of jaundice at the Bombay Hospital this evening. Mr Parvekar (52) was also general secretary of the MPCC (I). He is survived by his wife, seven daughters and three sons. Many Congress(I) MLAs and ministers, including Mr Ramrao Adik, Mr Baribhau Naik, and Dr V. Subramanian, visited the hospital to pay their last respects. The state Congress(I) leader, Mr N. M. Tidke, also visited the hospital. The body will be flown to Mr Parvekar's native place, Parva in Yavatmal district, tomorrow morning. Mr Parvekar had taken an active part in the bhoodan and cooperative movements in the state. He was a minister of state in the V.P. Naik ministry in 1969. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 80 p 4]

PROSPECTS FOR EX-SERVICEMEN--New Delhi, June 22 (UNI):--The number of ex-servicemen will rise to about 3,600,000 in the country by 1982-83 According to a book on the job opportunities available to ex-servicemen, the government would have to substantially step up its resettlement efforts to ensure a smooth changeover of service personnel to civilian life. Dr S. S. Shashi, the author of the book, says that major concentrations of ex-servicemen are in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Kerala. The author says that in 1979, about 50,000 officers and men from the three services retired. For 1979, the figure was likely to be over 100,000. The book says that a majority of defence personnel are recruited at the age of 17 to 19 and that by the time they are in their early 30's, they have to return to their villages. Over 70 percent of these personnel have little formal or technical education and it is in this perspective that the resettlement opportunities have to be substantially increased. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Jun 80 p 5]

HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ZAMBIA--India's new High Commissioner to Zambia Ravi Tandon presented his credentials to President Kaunda of Zambia at State House on 19 August. [Excerpt] [BK211615 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1431 GMT 21 Aug 80]

AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON--Beni Prasad Agarwal, minister and charge d'affaires a.i. in the embassy of India in Bonn has been appointed ambassador of India to Lebanon in succession to Yudhishtar Raj Dhawan. [Excerpt] [BK211615 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1441 GMT 21 Aug 80]

OIL EXPLORATION--India will permit foreign collaboration in exploration of oil in the country. This was announced by Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals Virendra Patil in New Delhi today. He said this step has been taken in view of the urgency to find more oil quickly. Foreign collaboration will supplement indigenous efforts to find oil. Petil said the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India have chalked out a 5-year program for exploration; 30 billion rupees have been earmarked for this purpose during the Sixth Plan period. The petroleum minister said new oil finds have been struck out in Ratnagiri coast in the west and in the Godavari basin in the east coast. Natural gas has also been found in the Godavari basin off the Andamans and Nicobar islands shelf. [Text] [BK061105 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Aug 80]

GODAVARI OIL RESERVES--Minister for Petroleum Verendra Patil has said that the offshore Godavari basin has a high potential of oil and gas. In an interview on television last night, he said work is going on on the second well in the basin and efforts are being made to find more oil in the area as more reserves are indicated there. Mr Patil pointed out that with oil prices escalating in the world markets, India's import bill this year will total up to more than 50 billion rupees as against 5.4 billion rupees in 1973-74. [Text] [BK090306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Aug 80]

FLOOD DAMAGE--Total damage to crops, houses and works of public utility because of the floods in the country amounts to 1.7 billion rupees; 84 persons have lost their lives so far. All India Radio correspondent says that a population of 22.2 million has faced the ravage of floods. Over 4.7 million hectares of land in 154 districts have so far been affected. The central teams which had gone to Uttar Pradesh and Kerala to assess the losses have submitted their reports. Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam continues to be grave. Rescue and relief operations have been stepped up in Sibsagar, Lakhimpur, Kamrup and Goalpapa districts. In Bihar, troops are helping civil authorities in rescue and relief operations in the worst-hit (Katihar) town. In Uttar Pradesh, the Gomti has inundated more areas in Jaunpur. [Text] [BK220336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Aug 80]

AMBASSADOR TO SEYCHELLES--Alfred Sylvester Gonsalves, 2 High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, has been concurrently accredited as High Commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles with residence in Dar es Salaam in succession to Aditya Narayan Dhairyasheel Haksar, High Commissioner of India to Kenya. [Text] [BK211615 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0931 GMT 18 Aug 80]

TRIBAL EXPLOITATION SCORED--Midnapore, June 22--Mr Santosh Rana, CPI(ML) leader, said here today that the State Government would be responsible if there was any upsurge of the tribals in Jhargram. He alleged that the tribals, who constitute about 35% of the total population of the sub-division, continued to be "exploited" both socially and economically. Their demands particularly for irrigation facilities to run pump sets and building of roads for communications in the interior villages, have not been met. Speaking at a convention against the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan here today, another CPI(ML) leader, Mr Stayanarayan Singh, alerted the people of Russian imperialism. He said it was not only a matter of concern to Afghanistan alone, but a threat to the country's independence. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 3]

SEPARATE STATE DEMANDED--The demand for a separate "Kantapur" State comprising the five districts of North Bengal, was made at a meeting of Rajbanshis and Kshatriyas, held at Fatapukur in the Raiganj police station area of Jalpaiguri district on Sunday morning, a police report said. Mr Kiran Chandra Roy was the main speaker. Posters with slogans like "Uttarbanga mukta karo," were displayed at the meeting. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 3]

RETIRED GENERAL DIES--New Delhi, June 23.--Lieutenant-General Har Prasad, PVSM, former Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, died this morning, reports UNI. He was 63. General Har Prasad, was commissioned on February 1, 1940 in the Armoured Corps. He served in various staff and instructional appointments and was commandant of the Staff College at Wellington. He was appointed Vice-Chief of the Army Staff in November 1970 and retired in November, 1973. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 9]

SOCIALIST LEADER DIES--Patna, June 22--Socialist leader, Mr Promode Kumar Mishra, (4) a former Minister, died at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, last night, according to information received here, [illegible]. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 12]

INDUSTRIAL LICENSING CENTRALIZED--New Delhi, June 24 (UNI):--The procedure for industrial licensing, including conversion, expansion and setting up of new units, has been centralised. According to the new procedure approved by the government, the final decision in respect of all these matters will now vest in the cabinet committee on economic affairs. Earlier, once the letter of intent was issued, applications for licence from individual entrepreneurs did not have to go before the cabinet committee but only to the industry ministry, the issuing authority for licence. The ministry used to dispose them of in consultation with the representatives of the ministries concerned and the planning commission who used to be associated with the licensing committee. [as published] The new innovation of the cabinet committee on economic affairs clearing these matters has been devised to enable the government to regulate these matters in conformity with the priorities drawn up by the planning commission. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jun 80 p 10]

FOREIGN AID VETTED--The West Bengal Government has decided not to accept foreign aid without proper scrutiny. Mr Jyoti Basu said in Calcutta on Wednesday that a Cabinet subcommittee had been set up to process proposals from foreign countries for financial help to development projects of the State. He said the decision was taken in accordance with the Union Government directives that some care should be taken while accepting foreign assistance. According to Government sources, the Chief Minister requested his Cabinet colleagues to submit all the proposals for assistance from foreign countries received by them so far to the subcommittee. He said a close scrutiny was necessary to find out whether the aid proposals had any strings attached. Recently, the State Government had received a large number of such proposals from European countries, mostly for the State's agricultural projects. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 26 Jun 80 p 12]

SOVIET UNION TEA PURCHASES--The Tea Trading Corporation of India, which stopped buying tea on behalf of the Soviet Union at the Calcutta tea auction, will resume purchases at the auction on Monday, the Managing Director of the corporation, Mr P. K. Dasgupta, said on Saturday. Four other nominees of the Soviet Union are also likely to resume their buying at the auction, informed sources said. The purchasing agents of the USSR opted out of the Calcutta auction since Monday, following the disruption of shipments of accumulated tea, worth about Rs 8 crores from the Calcutta Port. The disruption was caused by a strike by workers of their tea warehouses. The workers called off the strike following an appeal by the State Commerce Minister Mr Kanai Bhattacharya, and a meeting held by the State Labour Commissioner during the day. Mr Bikash Hazra, general secretary of the West Bengal Dock and Port Mazdoor Union, said that the Labour Commissioner had assured the union at the meeting that the demands for setting up a statutory Tea Workers' Board and regularization of the tea warehouse workers would be discussed at a meeting to be convened by the Labour Directorate after June 30. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 24 Jun 80 p 2]

CSO: 4220

JAPAN SEEKS 2 DOUBLE LNG IMPORTS FROM INDONESIA

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Jun 80 p 2

[Article: "Japan Wants to Increase LNG Imports from Indonesia"]

[Text] Jakarta--ANTARA--Japan wants to increase its liquified natural gas (LNG) imports from Indonesia to almost twice the total of the original contract, which was only for 7.5 million tons. This was stated by a qualified source of the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta.

Based on the contract which was signed between PERTAMINA and the Japanese gas and electric enterprise at the end of 1973, Japan was to import 7.5 million tons of LNG annually from the Arun natural gas plant in North Aceh and the Badak plant in East Kalimantan.

First Secretary Tsukmoto of the Japanese Embassy states that discussions for the increase referred to are now going on. Based on the original contract, Japan was to import 3.0 million tons of LNG per year from the Badak plant and 3.5 million tons from the Arun plant. Tsukmoto emphasized that Indonesian LNG production is "very good" at present. Therefore, he said, Japan wishes to increase further the import of LNG from Indonesia. He said that gas and electricity officials in Japan hope to be able to import a further quantity of 3.0 million tons of LNG from the Arun plant and 3.2 million tons from the Badak plant in the current fiscal year (ending in March 1981).

When asked about total Japanese LNG requirements for the fiscal year 1980/1981, the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy said that his country was planning to import 16.6 million tons. He provided details as follows: from Brunei, 5.14 million tons; Abu Dhabi, 2 million tons; Alaska, 960,000 tons; and it is hoped to obtain 8.5 million tons from Indonesia.

The Bureau of Community Relations of PERTAMINA on Friday [27 June] confirmed the fact that discussions are going on between PERTAMINA and Japan regarding the possibility of an increase in LNG imports from Indonesia by Japan. But

the Bureau of Community Relations of PERTAMINA did not confirm or deny the increased figure indicated by Tsukmoto, apart from stating that the conversations between PERTAMINA and Japanese businessmen "are based on the existing natural gas reserves" both in the Arun field as well as in the Badak field.

In the Badak field it is known that there are sufficient natural gas reserves for two train units (about 3 million tons of LNG). Conversations regarding the development of the Badak plant "are heading towards resolution involving the addition of two more train units," said the Bureau of Community Relations of PERTAMINA. Regarding the Arun field, the Bureau said that gas reserves have just been "confirmed" by Indonesia as amounting to one train unit (about 1.5 million tons of LNG). But it hoped that this increase in reserves can be "further confirmed," so that discussions with Japanese purchasers of ARUN LNG "can also begin on an addition of two train units."

When asked when the discussions would be completed, the Bureau of Community Relations of PERTAMINA stated: "The two sides hope this will happen as quickly as possible." When asked what is the obstacle, the Bureau of Community Relations of PERTAMINA did not provide details, apart from stating that if the "critical points" are overcome, everything will go smoothly. One "critical point," it was stated, is a formula for linking the LNG price to the price of crude oil.

Exports of LNG from the Badak plant to Japan began on 9 August 1977, while those from the Arun plant began on 4 October 1978.

5170
CSO: 4213

WEST GERMAN SOFT LOAN OBTAINED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 28 Jun 80 pp 1, 9

[Article: "West German Soft Loan of DM 120 Million"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta--KOMPAS--The acting Minister of Foreign Affairs M Panggabean on Saturday [28 June] signed a soft loan agreement amounting to DM 120 million with the government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The signing ceremony was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs building on Jalan Pejambon in Jakarta.

The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Indonesia, Mr H J Hallier, represented his government in the signing of the agreement. The loan is evidence of the readiness of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany to participate in helping the development program in Indonesia.

The attitude of the German government had been previously made clear at the IGGI meeting on 7-8 May. Apart from that the agreement represents a step forward following on the bilateral agreement reached at joint discussions held in Bonn on 16 May.

The two governments agreed on the terms, including a 30-year repayment period with a period of 10 years before repayment at 2 percent interest. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs M Panggabean, in his opening remarks, stated that the loan would be used to finance various construction projects in Indonesia closely connected with the life of the people. These included the Muara-Wahau-Sangkulirang highway, the Abai Siat rubber plantation, a search and rescue ship, and the Rimbo Tampuurung and Partuparang irrigation works in West Sumatra. The loan would also be used for the construction of the Belawan-Medan-Tanjung Morawa highway, the additional construction at the coal mine at Bukit Asam, and the construction of the third and fourth phase of the railway telecommunications system.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PAY FOR FORMER INDONESIAN KNIL MEMBERS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 Jun 80 p 12

[Article: "Supplementary Pay for Former KNIL Members"]

[Excerpt] Den Haag--ANTARA--In the Netherlands an effort is being made to include Indonesians once held by the Japanese as members of the KNIL [Royal Netherlands Indies Army] under the provisions made by the Dutch Government to pay the salaries of former KNIL members who were not paid during World War II. This effort is being made by several organizations, among them the group "Nu of Nooit" [Now or Never], under the chairmanship of P E Koot, who states that this matter will be pursued "to the very end."

The Dutch parliament, in its session last Thursday [19 June], reached the conclusion that the salaries of former KNIL members which, during the period of their captivity between 1942 and 1945, they did not receive, must be paid again. In a motion that was adopted the parliament urged the Dutch Government to pay all at once 7,500 Dutch guilders or about Rp 2.5 million to each former member of the KNIL who is now in the Netherlands.

The sum of 7,500 guilders is calculated over a period of 41 months. In the Netherlands those who are included in the criteria referred to in the parliamentary motion number about 5,000 people. This means that the Dutch Government must provide a substantial sum of money, about 375 million guilders, or almost Rp 113 billion.

In Indonesia

The chairman of the organization "Nu or Nooit," P E Koot, states that at present in Indonesia there are about 700 Indonesian citizens who also have the right to receive supplementary pay from the Dutch Government. Koot added that if among them there are people who were formerly KNIL members and then in 1950 entered the Indonesian armed forces, they also have the right to receive the supplementary pay.

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EAST TIMOR FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMS OFFENSIVE RESUMES

Victoria NATION in English 4 Aug 80 p 3

[Article by David Coetzee in Luanda]

[Text]

FIVE years ago the Portuguese walked out of their colony of East Timor and a little later neighbouring Indonesia walked in. Since then heavy fighting has raged and tens of thousands have died. Few relief workers and no journalists are allowed in. Recently the US Congress and the UN has taken renewed interest in the situation. Leaders of East Timor's Fretilin freedom movement are based in Mozambique. The Foreign Minister has just visited Angola where he was interviewed by a Gemini News Service correspondent.

AFTER a period of intense repression by Indonesian forces the Fretilin independence movement of East Timor seems confident it has regained the initiative.

According to its Foreign Minister, Mari Alkatiri — based permanently in Maputo, Mozambique — "We are now obliging the enemy to fight the war we want them to fight."

Alkatiri, in his thirties and slightly built, is one of seven members of Fretilin's Central Committee based outside East Timor itself. The remaining 60 lead a clandestine existence avoiding the Indonesian penetration of their territory.

I spoke to him in Luanda where he was holding discussions with the Angolan government. Angola and Mozambique have give consistent support to Fretilin. He regards them as our frontline state.

According to Alkatiri, more than 200 000 people have already died in East Timor — 20 per cent of the population. They have been killed in direct military engagements with the enemy and through famine when their

agricultural economy was destroyed. Since 1978, he says, the US has increased its military support for Indonesia, sending pilots and other "advisers".

Fretilin's major setback came last year with the death in combat of its president, Nicolau Lobatu. Treachery led to Lobatu's death and after that Fretilin changed its tactics away from the establishment of "liberated zones" and began spreading its guerrillas throughout the country. "We organised the people to surrender to avoid mass killings", says Alkatiri.

The rural population thus moved back under Indonesian control, under the guidance of Fretilin cadres. We sent in the water for the fish to swim in", he said, referring to Mao's dictum on guerilla warfare.

Some successes have already been marked up in the political sphere. The Indonesians have had little success in their citizenship campaign. In the major town of Dili, 17,000 out of an adult population of 20,000 rejected Indonesian citizenship, and then in March this year the Bishop of Dili gave his backing to Fretilin's independence struggle.

From the middle of last year the Indonesians have begun to try to counter the adverse publicity they have been getting because of humanitarian anxieties of the outside free world. But, says Alkatiri, they have had little success.

Indeed, the US Congress and Senate recently passed a resolution on the humanitarian aspects of the East Timor struggle, and Alkatiri hopes that a second resolution calling for the withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor and for a political solution, which is now under debate by Congress will soon be passed. Portugal has also been assuming a higher profile in Western diplomatic attempts to end the military struggle.

But Alkatiri does not regard these policy changes in the West with unalloyed satisfaction. "Their role is to manoeuvre and ours to defend against their manoeuvres" he says of the West.

The Fretilin struggle has already caused political and diplomatic difficulties for the Indonesian Government. It has found itself twice isolated in the Non-Aligned Movement and also in the United Nations, where it was formerly able to take a strong anti-colonial stand. Every year since 1975 there have been strong resolutions against Indonesia for its stance towards East Timor.

The liberation war and its ramifications in the political

[illegible] still also causing contradictions in Jakarta between the Foreign Affairs Department and that of Defence says Alkatiri and even within the Defence Department between generals and officers

It is alleged that a month ago there was a coup led by a former governor of Jakarta Fifty high-ranking officers were involved Three weeks ago the Ministry of Security issued a statement describing the situation in Indonesia as very serious

Among the group involved were several favourable to independence for East Timor says Alkatiri. Indeed, he believes the reason for renewed Western interest in a political settlement in the area could be the possibility of the war destabilising Indonesia

They are beginning to realise that the situation in East Timor will not go away and the struggle is causing losses in materials men and morale and in the political and economic spheres

We are not interested in winning back towns and cities Our objective is to wear down the enemy The Indonesians are replying by trying to win back politically what they cannot militarily

However the struggle is far from over Alkatiri asserts that Fretilin is receiving no military aid from any country and the list of states recognising the government in exile is still small

But Alkatiri's optimism stays high. Not a single bullet has come from abroad It is ironic that our greatest base of support is the Indonesian army" — GEMINI

About the author David Coetzee is Foreign Editor of *New African*, published in London

DATA ON ESTIMATED MINERAL DEPOSITS GIVEN

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 20 Jun 80 p 2

[Article: "Indonesian Gas and Oil Resources Total 89.7 Billion Barrels"]

[Text] Based on existing calculations, oil and natural gas resources still to be found in Indonesia total 89.7 billion barrels of oil equivalent (one barrel of oil equivalent equals 159 liters). These deposits of oil and gas certainly exist in sedimentary basins, only awaiting the time needed to find them. In the histroy of oil discovery in Indonesia beginning in the 1890's and up to the present only 17.3 billion barrels of oil equivalent have been produced.

This was stated by GAS Nayoan, General Chairman of the Union of Indonesian Geologists [Ikatan Ahli Geologi Indonesia] on Wednesday evening [18 June] in Bandung, as a conclusion of the IAGI seminar on energy resources in Indonesia. This seminar was held on 17 and 18 June, attended by 92 members of IAGI, and discussed six questions regarding energy resources, that is, oil and natural gas, geothermal energy, radioactive mineral deposits, and coal.

Oil and natural gas exploration activity provides data that the deposits are found in 40 sedimentary basins. Based on exploration activity, these sedimentary basins can be grouped in basins which have already been surveyed in an intensive and extensive way and indeed 10 of which are already in production. They are: North Sumatra, Central Sumatra, South Sumatra, Sunda Straits, the northern part of West Java, West Natuna, Barito, Kutai, Tarakan, and Salawati. Those which have already been partially explored are 11 in number, including Sibolga, the southern part of Java, the northern part of Java, East Java, the sea area north of East Java, the eastern part of Natuna, the Makassar Straits, Lariang, Timor, Bintuni, Bengkulu, and Asem-Asem. Those areas which have not yet been explored or only to a minimum extent are 19 in number.

Regarding coal, it has been said that there are reserves with a potential of 18 billion tons. Among other sources, this has been stated by PT Shell Minjnbouw [Shell Mining Company]. However, the criteria for this figure have never been published. The IAGI seminar considers that this total has not yet been proved to exist.

The results of exploration activity have proved that measured reserves up to 1979 totaled 143 million tons, that is, 100 million tons in South Sumatra and 43 million tons on Ombilin. These reserves are not yet sufficient to meet domestic requirements, supposing that the development in the use of coal for electricity generation and direct industrial use will continue in accordance with what is presently projected. Because other reserves must still be found. In this connection there are 50 million indicated tons in Ombilin, 110 million tons in South Sumatra, and 50 million tons in East Kalimantan.

Exploration for the readioactive mineral, uranium, was undertaken at the end of 1969, in cooperation with France in Kalimantan, and in 1976 in cooperation with Germany in West Sumatra. Apart from that, the National Atomic Energy Body [BATAN] has also carried out prospecting in several areas.

From the results of exploration carried out up to now a conclusion can only be drawn regarding the level of possibility of radioactive uranium mineral deposits by island or archipelago. That is, Kalimantan has a "great" level of possibility, Sumatra has a "significant" level, Sulawesi and Irian Jaya have a "slight" level, and Java has a "very slight" level. The survey of Nusa Tenggara is not yet complete.

The second radioactive mineral after uranium, that is thorium, potentially is found has already been partially exploited in the area of the tin deposits of Bangka, Biliton, and Singkep, as a byproduct.

Regarding total production of thorium and its use, Nayoan, who was accompanied by Rachmat Koesoemadinata and Loeki Witoelar, stated that up to now its use is not yet clear, and he did not know what the product of the exploitation would be used for.

Geothermal Energy

Concerning geothermal energy resources, these are spread out over 7,000 kilometers in a volcanic region 50 to 200 kilometers wide, extending from Sumatra to Java, Bali, Nusa Tenggara, the Sangihe Archipelago, which has been the site of active volcanos for about the last five million years. From the results of research the conclusion can be drawn that the prospects for geothermal energy in Indonesia have been about 80 percent inventoried. Among other things, there are 200 areas showing signs of geothermal energy which need to be investigated further for development.

The existence of these prospects for this energy source requires the handling of exploration in an effective way. However, implementation of such exploration has been hampered by the lack of geologists and geophysics specialists, especially those who are active in the fields of exploration and exploitation involving this form of energy resource.

IAGI was established on 13 April 1960. It has 542 members, including 90 to 95 percent of the geologists who are in Indonesia.

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GOVERNMENT PLANNING CONSTRUCTION OF NUMBER OF TOLL ROADS

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Jun 80 pp 1, 9

[Article: "Some Toll Roads in Indonesia"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta--KOMPAS--Several more limited access or toll roads will be constructed by the government in a number of places in Indonesia. The toll roads are intended to resolve the problem of heavy traffic which has reached such a high point in those areas. In addition to that, the existence of toll roads is intended to balance the increase in development of other sectors in some places which will become "distribution points" for other areas. At this time the only toll road which we have is the Jagorawi [divided lane, limited access road around Jakarta], which is the most expensive highway which has ever been constructed in Indonesia.

According to sources in the directorate general of regional construction in the Ministry of Public Works last Thursday [26 June], the toll road which is being planned is between Medan-Belawan and Tanjung Morawa in North Sumatra. The length of the road will be 36 km, consisting of 4 separated lanes with speed limits up to 120 km per hour. The cost of construction will be about $23 million, for which assistance will be obtained from Kuwait and West Germany (Kuwait, $18 million, and the rest from West Germany). These costs will be outside the funds requ red for land acquisition, which will be taken from the state budget. At this time the process of land acquisition is being undertaken, and it is estimated that next year tenders for the construction will have been announced. It is planned that over a period of about 4 1/2 to 5 years this highway will have been completed.

Meanwhile, the highway between Medan-Belawan to Tanjung Morawa has become so densely crowded that there are about 3000 vehicles that pass along it every hour. In this connection the highway, which consists of two lanes and was just improved in 1978, is calculated to be able to take only about 2000 vehicles per hour. It is estimated that the investment in the toll road can be returned over a period of 12 years.

The construction of the toll road from Medan-Belawan to Tanjung Morawa will be undertaken in the framework of the program of the Asian Development Bank, which will be assisting in the extension of the harbor of Belawan in the course of making Medan the central distribution point of North Sumatra.

The toll road from Jakarta to Tangerang, which will be 27 km in length, is at the point where land acquisition has been completed. At this time also tenders have been invited so that at the beginning of next year actual construction can begin. The cost of this highway will be about Rp 30 billion, which will be obtained from Japan. Based on present calculations the 4-lane highway will be completed in 1983.

The toll road from Jakarta to Cikampek, 78 km in length, will cost Rp 156 billion. The construction of this highway will be assisted by the World Bank and will be complete in 1985/86.

In the "intra urban" system Jakarta will also construct several segments of toll road which will be known as the "Southwest Arch," the "North-South Link," the "East-West Link," and the Jakarta "Outer Ring Road." Of the four highway segments the first to be undertaken, because its planning is the most advanced, is the "Southwest Arch." This highway, which will be 14 km in length, will extend between Grogol and the Halim intersection, paralleling Jalan Gatot Subroto. The cost will be about Rp 190 billion, apart from land acquisition, and will be financed with assistance from Japan. Thus, the toll road which is estimated to be complete by 1985/86 will be the most expensive road constructed in Indonesia (the high cost of the road is due to the fact that many overpasses will be constructed).

For the segment of highway for the "North-South Link," these 16 km of road will extend along the Jakarta By Pass road the the "East-West Link" for 15 km. There are still several problems to be resolved. Among them is the choice of locations through which it will pass. This is also the case with the Jakarta "Outer Ring Road," about 48 km in length, which will meet, at the Halim intersection, with other toll roads (the Jagorawi, the Jakarta-Cikampek road, and then on to the Jakarta-Tangerang road).

Another toll road whose planning is already complete is the "Cengkareng Access" in connection with the forthcoming construction of "Jakarta International Airport" in Cengkareng. This new road will emerge from the Pluit area of Cengkareng, continue for 14 km, and will enter the Gatot Subroto toll road. It is planned that this segment of road will be ready by about 1983/84 at a cost of Rp 5 billion from the state budget.

In East Java the road between Surabaya and Malang via Gempol is also in the course of being prepared to be a toll road. In the first phase the toll road which is being worked on is from Surabaya to Gempol, 40 km in length, whose land acquisition is in the course of being undertaken. It is planned that the actual construction of this segment of road will be undertaken at

the beginning of this year [sic; presumably means at the beginning of next year]. The cost of construction will be Rp 70 billion, obtained from two sources, respectively, Saudi Arabia and the Asian Development Bank.

Meanwhile, the Tallo Lama Bridge, in South Sulawesi, is being prepared for use as a toll bridge, as is the case with the Citarum Bridge in West Java. Through use of the bridge, about 200 m in length, the road between Ujungpandang city and Maros, via the airfield, can be shortened. The old road between the airfield and the city, about 16 km long, is being shortened to about 12 km through construction of a bridge, whose state budget cost is Rp 700 million.

Other toll roads which are being planned include the one known as the Semarang circle road in Central Java. In this connection what is under construction and almost ready is the road between Jatingaleh and Srondol via Jangli, 6 km long. Also being planned is a toll road from Jangli to the harbor of Semarang, 14 km long.

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GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT ALL REGIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 28 Jun 80 pp 1, 12

[Article: "BKPM Will Carry Out Overall Feasibility Studies -- Entrepreneurs Remain to Invest Capital"]

[Excerpts] Jakarta--KOMPAS--All feasibility studies for capital investment will be carried out by the government through the BKPM (Capital Investment Coordination Body). The Acting Chairman of the BKPM, Dr Ismail Saleh, made this statement to reporters at the BKPM building on Friday [28 June]. Previously, Ismail Saleh signed a project document called "Comprehensive Investment Profile for Certain Areas." This constitutes assistance from the UN Development Program [UNDP] for the BKPM.

The project document provides assistance from the UNDP amounting to $1,590,212 over a period of five years. It will be used to pay the costs of six foreign technicians, fees for consultants and local contractors, and the cost of education and training of 22 BKPM employees. For the project the BKPM will spend about Rp 145 million.

According to Ismail Saleh, the project will carry out feasibility studies concerning the potential of areas throughout Indonesia. In the first phase the studies will concern only 13 provinces: East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, Lampung, North Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, Maluku, and East Nusa Tenggara. Later, it will involve all areas of Indonesia.

With the feasibility studies of the overall potential of the various areas of all of Indonesia, clearly defined data will be available regarding the potential of the areas concerned. The feasibility studies will involve all aspects which have a connection with the business world and national development. That is, they will concern the type of industry or other enterprise which is suitable for a region; a working paper for the enterprise, including transportation and roads, fuel, electricity, regional development, social aspects, and other matters.

Later, the entrepreneur will remain to make his choice after seeing the conditions in the area concerned. The entrepreneur who will invest his capital will then have no need to guess any longer in determining the local conditions. The entrepreneur will remain to follow up what has already been investigated by the government, through the BKPM.

Ismail Saleh said that it would then be for the entrepreneur to provide the necessary capital. All aspects which could influence the project but are outside the reach of the entrepreneur himself will have been resolved by the BKPM. The entrepreneur will only have to calculate his profit or loss in carrying out that activity.

When the capital required is not fully owned by the entrepreneur, the banking community will certainly help him. With the feasibility study which has already been carried out by the government, the enterprises already approved by the BKPM have been confirmed to be proper for construction. For the banking side this is the ultimate guarantee of the feasibility of a project. For that reason, it is automatic that any project which has been approved by the BKPM certainly will find the government banks ready to help in the financing.

For the banks the feasibility study which is carried out by the entrepreneur himself is not able to convey sufficient confidence for the approval of the credit. What often happens is that feasibility studies which are carried out by the entrepreneur through private consultants are only used to apply for credit, while the project itself is not feasible. This is evident from the number of credit arrangements which break down because of feasibility studies which are not clear. Besides, feasibility studies which are carried out by the entrepreneur himself, no matter how expert and honest, cannot guarantee that the conclusions will be right over the long term. Changes in government policy often are not taken into consideration by consultants or entrepreneurs, because their concerns are only questions of profit or loss, and do not involve social questions.

However, feasility studies which are carried out by the government will look at the situation as a whole, so that it is certain that the results will be in the form of basic principles which will not change much in the future. This will bring certainty to the business world which is already prepared to invest its capital. As far as the banks are concerned, the worthiness of the credit is ensured.

The entrepreneur himself does not know the region which is most appropriate for his investment. The entrepreneur is very much concerned and watchful if he is expected to invest his capital in an area which he does not know at all. However, at present with the government feasibility studies, the areas which are open for foreign investors are known. With the guarantee of the government the entrepreneur involved will be confident about investing his capital.

The regional feasibility studies indeed provide very important assistance to the investment of capital. They facilitate matters in a very attractive way. This is the way to increase private enterprise in Indonesia, and it is recalled that in the third five-year plan it is hoped that the role of the private sector will expand. It is hoped that in this way capital investments will be attracted and that the target for the investment of private capital will be achieved with rapidly mounting figures.

The intention of the government is to provide confidence and hope to capital investors. They need not fear, because the government will always provide the necessary facilities. These facilities will be provided in a phased way, in accordance with the results of the feasibility study which has been completed. For the 13 provinces it is hoped that the feasibility studies will be completed in the next five years. But before five years have passed, some types of enterprise certainly will be known in terms of their feasibility studies, and these types of enterprise can be undertaken.

The success of the projects does not only depend on regional conditions or available capital. The question of the entrepreneur himself provides the most important guarantee of success. For that reason the BKPM will not issue licenses easily, without considering the aspect of the entrepreneur. For this reason the BKPM will begin to prepare a list of entrepreneurs who can be relied on in adequate fashion.

With cooperation between the BKPM and KADIN [Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry] there also will be prepared a register of "business profiles." Each enterprise will be looked at in terms of the activity of the business, production capacity, ability of the management, experience, knowledge and capitalization, as well as credit worthiness. From the "business profile" the entrepreneur can be selected who is sufficiently capable to stand out.

"It may be difficult to trust the BKPM program because it is so large and basic. But this is what we are going to do," said the Acting Chairman of the BKPM, Dr Ismail Saleh.

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CSO: 4213

NEPAL-U.S. RELATIONS CHARACTERIZED AS 'ALIVE, WELL'

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 14 Aug 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Alive and Well"]

[Text] The Government of the United States has agreed to provide His Majesty's Government with a grant assistance of 26.7 million US dollars for the rural development project in Rapti Zone. The grant assistance is to be effective for a five years' period beginning August this year. The agreement was signed to this effect by Finance Secretary Goraksha Bahadur Nhuchhe Pradhan and US ambassador Philip R. Trimble on behalf of their respective governments. Under the agreement HMG is also to provide a 'matching contribution' worth seven million dollars for the project. The agreed US assistance should pave a substantial way in implementing the envisaged Rapti Zone rural development project in the course of the sixth Five Year Plan. Also the fact that the US assistance comes in the grant form make this assistance that much more welcome.

The Rapti Zone rural development plan envisages a comprehensive and integrated programme to uplift the conditions of the rural farmers and to improve the productivity of land by introducing various facilities and modern techniques. While the long standing interest that the US has been showing in Nepal's development efforts is to be highly appreciated that the presently concluded Nepal-US grant assistance agreement marks a substantial boost for rural development which has been given a priority place in our sixth plan, makes it additionally so. From all available indications including the US ambassador's recent reiteration of US appreciation of Nepal's role within the nonaligned movement, it thus appears that the US will keep showing its sustained interest in Nepal's development activities and that bilateral assistance in the economic fields will continue to grow further in the years to come besides continued US assistance through multinational channels.

One indicator that such a trend may indeed be in the making may be taken from the recent meeting in Washington between the Royal Nepalese ambassador to the US Dr. Bhekh Bahadur Thapa and the US acting Secretary of State, Warren Christopher--a meeting that resumes high level contacts between the two countries in Washington and which had been missing for some time in the past. In other words, Nepal-US relations seem verily, to be alive and well and must be noted--and welcomed--as such.

CSO: 4220

POPULATION STATISTICS FOR 1980 GIVEN

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 4 Aug 80 pp 1, 4

/Text/ Kathmandu, August 3--(RSS) People attaining 60 years of age and above constitute 5.12 percent of the total population of Nepal.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, 43.09 percent of the country's total population are people below 14 years of age and those between 15 to 59 years of age constitute 51.77 percent of the country's population.

The statistical figure is based on the preliminary study done between February 1980 to April 1980 in connection with the national census to be taken in 1981.

The bureau had opened its offices in Jhapa, Dolkha, Sindhuli, Kathmandu, Kapilvastu and Surkhet for the purpose.

The preliminary census included 74,697 people, that is, 0.53 percent of the estimated 1,38,67,793 mid-year population. The preliminary study had covered 13,113 families.

According to the preliminary census, the percentage of males constitute 50.83 of the population. Accordingly, the ratio per hundred men is 103 women.

The preliminary survey has also revealed that 53 percent of the population is dependent while the ratio of women between 15 to 49 years and babies between 0 to four years per thousand is about 580. The ratio per thousand in 1975-76 census was 587.

About 1.4 percent of the population is found to have been away from their homes for more than six months.

The data show that 98.78 percent of the total population are Nepali citizens, 1.09 percent Indian citizens and 0.12 percent are nationals of different countries.

According to the study 59.93 percent of the people speak their mother language 16.75 speak Abadhi language, 5.45 percent speak Magar language, 3.70 percent speak Bhote Sherpa language and the remaining speak other languages.

Likewise, 91.33 percent of the total population are Hindus, 3.65 percent are Buddhists, 0.05 percent are Muslim and remaining are followers of different religions.

As for the matrimonial situation prevailing in the country, 31.62 percent of total population above the age of 10 are unmarried, 61.25 percent are married, 68.37 percent are once married and 9.97 percent are widows.

Of the total married population, 58.67 percent are men and 63.96 percent are women and 0.77 percent are divorcees.

Of the total population above the age of 10 and below 60 who are physically fit to work and generate income, 39 percent are men and 26.94 are women, it is learnt.

Likewise, of the total physically fit population, 55.50 are found engaged in productive works, 63.65 percent are engaged in household works, 26.71 percent are students and the remaining 10.64 percent include the diseased, the helpless, mad, pensioners, prisoners and orphans and not engaged in gainful employment.

Likewise, of the total population engaged in productive works, 1.59 percent are employers, 27.58 percent are employees, 62.45 percent undertake private works, and 7.80 percent are unpaid family workers.

In connection with the national census publicity work carried out this time, questions were asked to the people for the fi-st time.

Of the total 30 percent found to be aware of the national census to be undertaken next year, 36.23 percent are of terai region and 11.80 percent are of the hilly region.

CSO: 4220

NEED TO WIN CONFIDENCE IN FAMILY PLANNING NOTED

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 Aug 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Extending FP Services"]

[Text] Grown wiser by past experiences, the Family Planning Association of Nepal has now decided correctly to launch an intensive programme to diversify and expand its services so that the rural population can avail of family Planning (FP) services. This, in the view of the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), will not only help in extending its services but also supplement the efforts other organisations and institutions engaged in propagating family planning activities. Indeed, at the present juncture, all efforts from all sides have to be pooled together to make family planning a viable reality, and not just confined to the urban areas and their surroundings. The recent fertility survey conducted for the World Fertility Survey indicates that family planning as a method to curb unwanted births is yet to catch on among the rural people, specially among the rural women most of whom, according to the survey, have not even heard of family planning. The challenge therefore is real and difficult and it would not do to mock at any efforts aimed towards this goal. In this context, it is noteworthy that many institutions such as the Maternity and Child Health project, Health Services Department and the Contraceptives Retail Sales Project (CRSP) are doing their bit in popularizing family planning not merely as a device to check population growth and hence to make development efforts more meaningful but also to prevent undue loss of health of mothers who bear children frequently.

FPAN, for instance, is toying with the idea of abortion as a means of birth control, besides continuing with its traditional activities. The barrier of tradition that any idea of abortion is bound to meet is not difficult to foreseen, specially in a country like Nepal with a largely illiterate population. But it is an idea that needs to be further explored and investigated before all-out efforts are made to popularise it. Even apart from the question of abortion, much still can be done, specially in the rural area. It is thus a matter of satisfaction that the FPAN is running a project in family welfare in Baudha Bahunepati where FPAN is trying to find out if family planning and welfare activities will succeed.

The project which was started six years ago as a pilot project is now running as a regular project and an evaluation of the project is being done by the UN Fund for Population Activities. If found satisfactory, similar projects will be run in other villages also. It is to be hoped that the village selected for the purpose will be sufficiently typical in terms of rural environment and presumably located far from cities. The approach in such projects, it appears, is an integrated one dealing with all aspects of family welfare. The best way to win the confidence of the people is through practice, and it would not be amiss to say that if more of such projects are run in different parts of the country the people will gain more trust in family planning and hence be more acceptable to them.

CSO: 4220

PLANS TO REVAMP RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY DESCRIBED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Jun 80 p 17

[Article by Mavin Kurve]

[Text] Kathmandu, June 23:

In the post-referendum year, the Nepal government is to radically revamp its industrial and rural agricultural policies to bring some long-delayed benefits to 40 percent of its population living below the poverty line.

The government is to liberalise and simplify the existing procedures for facilitating foreign investment in both the exclusive and joint industrial ventures in the kingdom.

The sixth plan, totalling Rs 2,230 crores, is also being given the objective of fulfilling the minimum needs of the people and providing essential facilities to them. The outline of the government's broad policy and programmes given by King Birendra to the rashtriya panchayat yesterday is to be discussed in the house from Wednesday to July 3 when the premier, Mr S.B. Thapa, will reply.

The new deal, proposed to millions of small farm families and marginal farmers through integrated rural development projects and effective land reforms and better facilities for credit and inputs, will form part of the new agricultural policy.

Several international agencies and friendly western countries are to invest over 150 million dollars in some 25 districts of Nepal in the coming plan beginning July 16 in rural development programmes.

Creation of a new ministry of local development is intended to raise the living standards and "ensure people's participation in planning, implementing and maintaining rural projects."

Leaders of the partyless panchayat government claim that "panchayats have created preconditions for local development in the past by mobilising labour resources and skills" and that the new ministry will be able to obtain maximum cooperation.

there is admission by the government that though many people have benefited from 20 years of economic planning and creation of some basic services "the economic condition of masses is far from satisfactory."

King Birendra said the government would take necessary measures to quicken the pace of development and strengthen national economy in the sixth plan designed to increase productivity, provide opportunities for productive employment and meet the basic needs of the people.

King Birendra said: "My government will undertake useful programmes to ameliorate the economic and social conditions of small farmers in the coming years. In an effort to make the small farmers' development programme more extensive, my government will lay special emphasis on the task of making easily available agricultural credit and inputs, implementing extensive drinking water projects, encouraging cottage and small scale industries as well as carrying out programmes of land reform. Because of the continuing decline of cultivable land, greater attention will be given to extending the resettlement programme to the hilly areas by gradually orienting it to the non-agricultural occupation."

King Birendra said: "No country can achieve progress in the absence of peace and political stability. The maintenance of law and order in the country shall be the prime responsibility of my government, which shall deal firmly with any action aimed at disturbing the peace and law and order and creating coudition of instability."

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

TURKISH AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE--Mr Ali Hikmet Alp has been designated ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Kingdom of Nepal, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports RSS. Mr Alp is resident ambassador of Turkey in India. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 Aug 80 p 1 BK]

AMBASSADOR TO CANADA--His Majesty the King has appointed royal Nepali Ambassador to the United States of America Dr Bhekh Bahadur Thapa as royal Nepali ambassador to Canada also. This is stated in a notice issued in Katmandu on 3 August by the principal press secretariat of His Majesty the King. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 3 Aug 80 p 1 BK]

FRENCH AMBASSADOR DEPARTURE--French Ambassador to Nepal Francois Leopold de Testa has left Katmandu on 2 August after completing his term of office. [BK051315 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 2 Aug 80]

ENVOY TO PERU, CHILE--His Majesty the King has appointed Royal Nepanese permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr Uddhav Deo Bhatta as Royal Nepalese ambassador to Chile and Peru, reports RSS. This was stated in a notice issued in Katmandu on 29 July by the principal press secretariat of His Majesty the King. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 29 Jul 80 p 1 BK]

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

RECORD WOOL OUTPUT--Wellington 19 Aug (AFP)--New Zealand sheepfarmers produced a record 356,000 tonnes of wool in the 1979-80 season--a full 22,000 tonnes ahead of the country's previous best production level. The record wool output followed a season of excellent pastoral conditions and expanded national sheep flock--now totalling 65 million animals. New Zealand Wool Board chairman John Clarke forecast a 5 percent production rise in the coming season. The past season had seen Russia become New Zealand's biggest wool customer, the first time Great Britain had not filled that position. The record wool clip had also brought in record earnings of some dollars (NZ) 950 million, a clear dollars (NZ) 200 million more than the previous year. The clip was worth an average 265 cents a kilogramme--50 cents a kilogramme higher than the year before. At the same time Mr Clarke has cautioned New Zealand sheepfarmers that the expected extra production this year "will be coming onto the market at a time when international economies generally are in poor shape." [Text] [OW191649 Hong Kong AFP in English 1413 GMT 19 Aug 80 OW]

CSO: 4220

NATION FACING HUGE REFUGEE PROBLEM

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Aug 80 p 6

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Aug. 8: The number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan has nearly reached a million, according to the official statistics available here.

Pakistan is now faced with biggest refugee problem after the great exodus on Partition in 1947.

The statistics issued by the Government of Pakistan, show that a total of 932,194 Afghan refugees were either registered or recorded with the local authorities. As of June 30, their breakdown according to province or area is:

Registered: Baluchistan 180,223, North West Frontier Province 720,495, and Northern Areas, 2,440. Total: 903,158.

Recorded: Sind 5,590, Punjab 22,257, and Azad Kashmir 1,289. Total: 29,036.

According to campwise statistics published by the government as of June 30, the percentage of men, women and children refugees in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province are:

NWFP: Male adults 30 per cent, female adults 28 per cent, and children under 12 years, 42 per cent.

Baluchistan: Male adults 26 per cent, female adults 26 per cent, and children under 12 years, 48 per cent.

In NWFP the main increases in the registered refugee population have been reported from Bajaur, Kurram and North Waziristan Agencies. In Baluchistan, the increase has been mainly in Pishin and Zhob Districts.

In NWFP there has been a substantial migration of refugees from hot low-lying areas to cooler higher ground. A large number of the registered population of refugees in Peshawar, Kohat Bannu, and D.I. Khan, particularly the latter two, have left and have moved to higher areas.

As a result of a substantial influx of refugees into Pakistan during the first half of 1980, it became essential to reassess the nature and volume of under-assistance. The target figure of 55 million dollars was revised, and on June 26, 1980, a new appeal was launched by the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees with a target figure of 99.847 million dollars, of which some 45.547 million dollars are for basic food.

Certain progress has been achieved in a number of areas of concern, as the sections on Baluchistan and NWFP show. However, speedy implementation of planned projects continues to be hampered by fresh influxes of refugees, by the seasonal migration of refugees from one part of the province to another, by the shortage of Pakistani technical personnel prepared to work on the relief related projects, delays in procurement of relief items, particularly tents, medicaments and clothing.

Although firm orders for 46,500 tents of agreed specifications have been placed with manufacturers in Pakistan by the under headquarters procurement unit, no delivery of these has taken place during the month of June. Efforts are being made to oblige the manufacturers to adhere strictly to the delivery schedules. The tent situation continues to remain the major concern.

The food rations made available monthly through the U.N. system

to the refugee families meet the FAO/WHO Technical Expert Committee recommended dietary daily allowance per capita, as certain food items such as fresh vegetables, fruit and meat, present problems in distribution due to their perishable nature. They have been excluded from the food basket. The refugees are, therefore, expected to purchase these food commodities locally from the monthly cash allowance they receive from the Pakistan Government, amounting to Rs. 50 a person.

However, recent reports from the field concerning the state of health of the refugees continue to indicate that some women and young children are suffering from protein deficiency and primary as well as secondary malnutrition of varying degrees.

Although there is no immediate cause for alarm, it is nevertheless considered advisable to provide reconstituted vitamin-enriched milk and high protein crackers/biscuits to women and children as well as to intensify the health coverage for these vulnerable groups, both as a preventive and a curative measure.

The sanitation and hygienic situation in the refugee camps/villages has by no means reached a satisfactory standard, although refugees in some areas have made efforts to establish some sanitary facilities around the tents.

The implementation of water supply schemes in Baluchistan continues to progress satisfactorily, whereas the programme in NWFP is still hampered by shortage of technical staff and equipment.

From the middle of February to early March 1980, can only be described as a "miracle" period for the Afghan refugee sheep owners. Against all expectations the lambing season was excellent. However, the great increase in sheep numbers is most likely to cause severe problems during the coming winter months, owing to even greater pressure on the land caused by over-stocking of the winter grazing areas, than was experienced during the winter of 1979-80. Although the refugees have sold a number of sheep during recent months to meet household expenses, the offtake from the flocks is far below required numbers to avoid a massive sheep population explosion. December 1980 and January 1981 are expected to be critical months unless a substantial offtake from the flocks is made.

The rapid increase in the number of camels which are entering Pakistan as pack animals with the new Afghan arrivals will further aggravate the already acute problem of fodder during the coming winter months.

These observations and shortcomings have been discussed with the Federal and Provincial authorities and, where possible, steps are being taken to remedy the situation.—APP Feature Service

CSO: 4220

[illegible] TO RECEIVE $1.8 BILLION FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Aug 80 p 1

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, Aug. 8: Pakistan is expected to receive this year total foreign assistance worth 1.8 billion dollars. This will include balance of payment support from IMF and OPEC countries.

This was stated by the Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Aftab Ahmad Khan in an interview with Radio Pakistan.

He said it was Pakistan's expectation that adequate external assistance in the form of fresh aid, as well as debt re-scheduling would be forthcoming to enable it to realise its essential developmental targets.

He said because of Pakistan's commendable economic performance, despite the many severe strains to which its economy had been subjected, the aid to Pakistan Consortium has substantially increased the quantum of aid to Pakistan this year. It had already pledged 1.50 million dollars aid.

He said economic assistance was also being provided by Islamic States and other countries.

Reviewing the economic development in the fiscal year 1979-80 Aftab Ahmad Khan said the rate of increase in gross domestic product was 6.2 per cent; six per cent in agriculture and 8.5 per cent in large scale manufacturing.

He said the average rate of advance in national output in the last three years ending June 30, 1980 was around six per cent annually. It showed a market improvement over the rate of 3.6 per cent per annum experienced in the first seven years of the last decade i.e. from 1970 to 1977.

The Secretary Economic Affairs Division said the most significant improvement registered was in the field of export which had escalated by over 100 per cent in the last three years. It showed a remarkable rise of 38.4 per cent in the fiscal year 1979-80.

Mr. Aftab said it had been possible to maintain the remarkable pace of economic advance in total output as well as in the key commodities sectors of agriculture and manufacturing despite an inhospitable international economic environment and much lower than expected availability of economic assistance as compared to what was projected in the 5th Five-Year Plan.

Referring to difficult balance of payment position and disconcerting inflationary pressures to which all non-oil developing countries are being subjected, Mr. Aftab said the current account deficit of these countries for the current year is estimated at 68 billion dollars of which Pakistan's share is around 0.9 billion dollars.—PPI

[illegible]

EDITORIAL CLAIMS 'NEW TYRANNIES' IN INDIAN-HELD KASHMIR

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 8 Aug 80 p 3

[Editorial: "New Tyrannies"]

[Text] Shaikh Abdullah, the arch-traitor to the South Asian Muslims, is back on his old tactics again. These tactics include a hot-headed tyranny in aid of the vandallism of a Hindu army which seeks to make a forced play thing of Muslim honour in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the specific orders more than 400 people were arrested from the protest meeting-ground of the People's Conference of Jammu and Kashmir which is a new name coined for the Muslim Conference in "secular" India. The meeting was organised to protest against the cruelty committed by the military personnel in Srinagar on July 26 last, when there was an open clash between the civilians and the army. Shaikh Abdullah has tried to lay the blame on the Indira Gandhi's regime at New Delhi, calling it a political gimmick to oust him from power. Whether this is correct or not is another matter. But, in the rivalry between the daughter of his former master, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his own lust for staying in power over the people of Jammu and Kashmir, it is the people who become the football of tyranny. What has the great Shaikh Abdullah to show for his services to the people? For a long time before the partition of the subcontinent he acted as the loyal stooge of the Indian National Congress, against which he received the dubious title of Lion of Kashmir. But in the final upshot he was instrumental in assisting the Maharaja's conspiracy to push the state into the arms of India, to strengthen the shackles of Hindu hegemony which had been keeping the Muslims of the state in thrill. This transfer was only of quality as it meant the change of masters from the Dogras to the Brahmins.

In the squabble that ensued between Pakistan and India on the question of the accession of the state, the Shaikh dreamt of independence so that he could prop himself as the new ruler and father of a Kashmir nation. Indian arms, however, could not allow him the gift on a basket, and they proceeded to occupy the land which would be freed thanks to the importance of the United Nations and the Machiavellism of the Brahmins. Pakistan, for a time, tried to persuade him that such a dream was unlikely in the context

of the power alignments in the region and that Kashmir's real fortunes lay in joining the Muslim state. This fraternization, however, proved of no avail and Shaikh Abdullah, who had been for long incarcerated by the old friend, Nehru, continued to hope. During this period of his incarceration and subsequent release to re-enter politics, the Indian forces, of which five solid divisions have been riding it rough-shod all along, the Muslim people paid through the honour and their lives. They continued to be the comforters of tired bureaucrats on the Jehlum houseboats of Srinagar and of the military officers who are there to stay. Kashmir had been a Sikh outpost during the days of Raja Ranjit Singh and as such it provided him with several thousand beauties per year to be paraded before the Sikh nobility and to be housed in the notorious Hira Mandi in Lahore in close vicinity to the grand stables which happened to be the famous Shahi Masjid. This time it were the occupation forces who did their duties in relays, to the tune of one hundred thousand, who stayed yearly in Jammu and Kashmir and picked at the Kashmiri self-respect, thanks to the crooked politics of Shaikh Abdullah.

When in 1965, Pakistan tried to go to the help of the Kashmiris, they were easily betrayed to their masters, thanks to the Shaikh's propaganda and policies and the operation failed. As against this, the infiltrators in East Pakistan were housed, fed and hidden by the Hindus for as long as three years until the civil broke out with their help and Indian aggression followed [as published]. The tyranny of the Indian forces has this time been brought into the open, in spite of the Shaikh, and he is now playing the role of the tyrrant, trying to explain away the events as secret manipulations of the Indira regime. Whether it is that or something else, the fact remains that it is the Muslims of the state who bear the brunt. The night over the region has been long and there seems little hope of a redemption now that human rights have been thrown down the drain by the United Nations itself. We can only pray for our breathen and do no more.

CSO: 4220

'MAIL' CLAIMS NAZI PERSECUTION OF JEWS EXAGGERATED

Peshawar FRONTIER MAIL in English 10 Aug 80 p 4

[Editorial: "Nazi Hunters and Arab Haters]

[Text] Of late serious doubts have been cast on the lurid stories publicised by the Allied propaganda machine at the end of the Second World War about the so-called Nazi atrocities on the Jews. It was stated that Hitler's SS Guards rounded up millions of Jews and massacred them one way or the other. The methods used for their disposal as described at the time would give anybody the crawling jeepies. The total number estimated to have been annihilated was put at 6.6 million. Thousands of them were handed over, it was said, to medical researchers for use as guinea-pigs for a variety of toxins and other medicines. Others were herded into special camps and starved out there. When all this did not prove fast enough to destroy the genus, the Nazis developed special gas chambers into which the living skeletons were pushed en masse and turned into cinders. The Jews were stated to have been primarily drawn from Germany itself and the nations whom Hitler brought under his heel soon after he wrought his conquests of Europe, mainly from Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Northern France, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The Nazis were decidedly anti-Jew and this was well known even before Hitler began to steam-roll Europe.

This gave enough time to those Jews who could escape. Shiploads on shiploads of them had been moving out of Europe since the turn of the century to Palestine to set up what the Zionists called their "promised land" there, financed by the great banking houses of Europe, especially the Roschilds. At the dawn of the twentieth century, another exodus had started towards the land of opportunities, the United States. Only those who could not find in possible to move were left. To-day 250,000 of

them still live in France, an equal number in the United Kingdom, and there are still numerous of them in Germany, both West and East. Before the Jews could crawl out of their ghettos, dotted all over Europe and occupying important points of financial power, they could be visibly counted. After they began streaming out for new pastures outside the Continent, it is a wonder that as many as six million could still remain in that part of the Continent of Europe where Hitler's SS Guards could lay their hands on them. The whole story was nothing if not a concoction to arouse public sympathy in order to push through the resolution in the United Nations for creation of Israel on other people's land. Just such a thing was done in 1948 and they were planted in the Holy Land, like germs of cancer into a body. The vast propaganda machine controlled by the Jews in America, Europe and the Far East, points them as the eternal victims of terror (not Christian but Nazi and sometimes Arab terror), who have been pluckily holding their own in the midst of a sea of alien enmity.

This is a palpably false picture. Israel is not an entity which faces grim realities based on its own inherent power. Financially, the biggest banking houses of Europe and America assist it, all the Jews of Europe and America contribute 10% of their earnings to Israel; Israeli fruits are sold at inflated prices in the white man's lands, marked with the legend "Product of Israel" on the cellophane packings, governments of the developed countries too readily send them anything they want, the costs underwritten by banks, and armament flows into it without any restrictions not on credit but as outright grants. The size of the latter can be gauged from the fact that the United States alone has been arming Israel at the rate of nearly 2.5 billion dollars worth of weapons per year. In fact Israel represents the whole of the developed world in miniature. Recently the Jews of the USA railroaded President Jimmy Carter to pin a medal on the chest of one Simon Wiesenthal, a Jew, for being a "courageous" Nazi-hunter. The man has probably been a top witch-hunter for the Zionists who want to keep the legend of Nazi tyranny alive. "Hitler and Stalin are alive today", said this star performer for the Jews, "but not in the same countries". He ought to have named them though. Perhaps the ruse is to keep the "tyranny" bugbear alive as a grist for the propaganda mill of the Zionists.

POPULATION GROWTH TO BE TREATED AS SOCIAL ISSUE

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 12: A comprehensive plan to approach the population growth in the country more as a social issue than clinical, has been finalised and would be presented to the President soon after Aug. 15.

According to a source close to the Population Division, the new plan which covers the next three years, would primarily coordinate the work of different government departments and agencies engaged in health, nutrition and welfare jobs.

Child and mothercare, both in pre-natal and post-natal periods, would also form part of the new Population Plan.

Not more than eight per cent women in the country practice the family planning methods, necessitating comprehensive motivational techniques, as well as improvement of the overall standard of health of the child and the mother.

At the present growth rate of 2.96, the population of Pakistan is expected to be around 147.3 million, nearly double the present count, by the turn of the century.

Meanwhile, the screening of thousands of employees of this Division, a large majority of whom are under suspension, is going space. The delay in finalisation of these cases is reportedly due to the investigators' keen desire to give all opportunities to the accused in the interest of justice and fairplay.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

BIGGEST THERMAL POWER STATION--Karachi, Aug. 8--Sui Gas-based Thermal Power Station will become the biggest thermal station in the country when phase II of the project now under construction is commissioned by the end of this year. Located on the banks of River Indus, the Guddu Power Station at present has a generation capacity of 229-Mw, with two steam units of 110-Mw, each and one gas turbine of 9-Mw. After completion of phase II the capacity of the plant will rise to 439-Mw. The station was progressively completed and commissioned in 1974. Since then it has been supplying power to the country's southern areas besides providing a link between the northern and southern grids through a 132 Kv. double-circuit line.--APP /Text/ /Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Aug 80 p 7/

CSO: 4220

CENTRAL BANK TO EASE IMPORT CONTROLS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Aug 80 pp 1, 6

/Article by Joy de Los Reyes/

/Text/

THE GOVERNMENT will lift shortly some of its import controls to allow the entry of more foreign-made products, Central Bank sources disclosed yesterday.

The Central Bank will initially give importers liberal access to foreign exchange to finance their importations, sources said.

The guidelines governing liberalized foreign exchange allocation are being finalized and are expected to take effect later this month.

The lifting of import controls is part of an ongoing general restructuring of the financial, industrial and trading systems in the country.

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IN A RELATED development, Tariff Commission Chairman Razon Haresco said yesterday that duties on imported luxury items will be reduced starting Jan. 1 next year.

From a 100-percent duty on the nominal value of luxury imports, the rate will be reduced to 70 percent and to a final 30 percent two years after the initial reduction.

AT PRESENT, only importers of essential products are assured of foreign exchange from the Central Bank. Importers of non-essential items, on the other hand, are granted dollar allocations on a case-to-case basis.

Generally, importers of non-essential items are given foreign exchange allocations only if they are engaged in dollar-generating export activities.

Even then, they can use only part of their export earnings. Car home countries.

"Had they told British immigration authorities about the children, the immigrants would not have been allowed into Britain in the first place," the Home Office said.

Many of the immigrants staged today a peaceful demonstration outside the Home Office, while a union delegation met Home Office Minister of State Timothy Raison.

Raison issued a statement saying that all cases were being considered carefully to find out if there were "sufficient compassionate circumstances" to merit exceptions.

He said: "Many of the Filipino illegal entrants have worked hard in this country, but this is true of many others who have no claim to be here, and that cannot be a ground for exceptional treatment.

"While here they have had, for a number of years, the benefit of higher wages than their compatriots who did not breach our laws."

The statement said there were strong economic incentives for people from many parts of the world to come to Britain.

The government "cannot accept that the Filipinos should receive special treatment because they would be worse off with their own families in their own country."

There would be no general amnesty, the statement said.

The slowdown in the flow of Malaysian workers to Singapore follows a construction boom in that country.

The need for foreign labor from non-traditional sources was stressed by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew himself in his National Day message last week when he said that "the economic development board is pressing me to overrule the Ministry of Labor and to let in another 6,000 construction workers a year from non-traditional countries to meet the deadlines for the construction of several industrial plants."

He added that as an interim measure, Singapore had no choice but to import more foreign workers although he admitted that this could give rise to social problems.--(Express Wires)

CSO: 4220

TARIFF RATES ON ASEAN IMPORTS CUT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 16 Aug 80 p 9

/Text/ About 367 imports will have reduced tariff rates as a result of the ASEAN preferential trading arrangement (PTA) which was ratified three years ago.

According to Tariff Commission Chairman Razon Haresco, tariff reductions range from 10 percent to 20 percent off prevailing rates.

Other ASEAN countries, according to Haresco, granted similar concessions on some 400 items.

Philippine export products whose tariff rates were reduced by ASEAN importing countries include calcium carbide, twine, cordage, ropes and cables of Manila hemp, extracts and essences of coffee, sweetened biscuits, wooden tables, raw or processed Manila hemp, tiles of polyvinyl chloride, men's and boy's outer garments, suits of cotton, portland cement, copra, coconut oil, sugar, natural yeast, sewing machines and parts, brassieres and prepared baking powder.

Last year exports of these products amounted to $438 million of which $25.6 million went to ASEAN countries.

Haresco said that from an initial coverage of 71 items, more than 4,000 products are now covered by preferential trading arrangement.

Last year, during the 8th ASEAN economic ministers meeting in Manila, the concessions were further increased including a tariff reduction on items whose import value in 1978 was less than $50,000.

CSO: 4220

TARIFF REDUCTION CONSIDERED UNWISE

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 21 Aug 80 p 9

/Editorial: "Is Easing Tariff on Imports Sound?"/

/Text/ Businessmen predict more layoffs and company shutdowns if the plan to ease import tariffs is pushed through. The private sector is worried that the government decision to liberalize tariffs would result in the flooding of the market with imported items to the detriment of local producers.

It is easily understandable why industrialists are raising a louder howl against relaxation of import controls than against the mandatory increase in wages, which would mean some P15.7 million in additional payroll every day. Studies show that wage increases would push industry's total costs by only a little over 1 percent, while non-labor costs would shoot up by no less than 16 percent.

We understand the dilemma of local industry which faces tremendous problems that threaten its viability at all fronts: government planners bent on withholding protection to catalyze growth and dynamism; labor threatening to paralyze operations unless more wage increases are given; competition that will become stiffer with the influx of low-taxed and thus low-priced imported items; and financial burdens in the form of high interest rates on borrowed capital.

Inasmuch as the government's problem of raising more taxes and labor's clamor for more wages are dependent to a large measure on industry's health and viability, it is best to look into the private sector's plaints on the easing of import duties before any move to implement it is done. Specifically, there is need to protect local products against imported finished goods which can command lower prices because they are made by highly-efficient foreign producers. Also, the easing of import tariffs would cut deep into the government's tax take, and might even spawn new taxes to compensate for the loss.

It needs to be explained why, at this time when industrialized countries such as the United States and Western Europe are buoying up tariff protectionism to head off the effects of the worldwide economic crisis on their economies, we are boldly risking death of local industries by liberalizing imports. While the reasons may seem valid--among them to motivate business to streamline their operations and improve their products to be competitive--the timing might not be too realistic, or fair.

There is need to synchronize government policies with the needs of business and labor and this tariff reduction plan is no exception.

CSO: 4220

FIGURES FOR PHILIPPINE TRADE WITH USSR, EAST EUROPE GIVEN

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 21 Aug 80 p 9

/Text/ Russia emerged as the Philippines' top trading partner among Socialist countries in Eastern Europe last year as their total trade hit $91.01 million.

Available figures show that Philippine exports to Russia last year amounted to $83.3 million, while imports totalled $7.7 million.

The country's total trade with Socialist countries in Eastern Europe amounted to $131.12 million last year. Total exports to the Socialist bloc were valued at $96 million, while imports totalled $35.13 million.

Yugoslavia ranked second to Russia as the country's trade partner and Hungary was third.

The country had a trade deficit with five other Socialist countries in Europe.

Among the major Philippine exports to the Socialist bloc last year were crude coconut oil, copra, sugar, copper concentrates, cement, calcium carbide and raw coffee.

Other Socialist countries with which the country has bilateral trade relations include Romania, German Democratic Republic (GDR), Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

CSO: 4220

NATION TO GET $100 MILLION WORLD BANK LOANS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS 12 Aug 80

/Article by Rosario A. Liquicia/

/Text/

THE Philippines will receive $100 million in loans from the World Bank in November this year to finance major development projects.

The financing is part of a $200 million program loan earlier granted to the Philippines by the World Bank.

Industry Minister and Board of Investments (BOI) Chairman Roberto V. Ongpin said the loan proceeds will be used to finance energy development projects, the rationalization of selected industries, and the export processing zones.

The $200 million (about P1.5 B) program loan, also known as a "structural adjustment loan," was negotiated by government officials led by Finance Minister Cesar Virata and the World Bank last June. The loan agreement is expected to be signed in September and its first release of $100 million is due by October or November, Ongpin said.

The second release is expected in January next year, he added.

• • •

WE EXPECT the World Bank to continue its program of granting developing countries structural adjustment loans. And in our case, we hope the program to continue for at least three years at the same rate, Ongpin said.

This means the government will be able to avail itself of a total of $600 million over three years, to finance activities needed in the basic restructuring of the country's economy.

Ongpin also explained that the Philippines is the first country to be granted a program loan or a structural adjustment loan under the World Bank's new loan scheme.

This demonstrates the World Bank's confidence in the country's ability to restructure its economy, as well as its loan management capability, Ongpin further said.

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UNLIKE other World Bank loans which are granted on the basis of specific projects, Ongpin explained the program of structural adjustment loan is given to the government to finance any project.

"In our case, the $200 million will be used for energy development projects, the rationalization of industries including the textile industry, and the coal conversion scheme for cement plants. The loan will also partly finance the requirements of the 12 export processing zones to be set up throughout the country within the next five years," Ongpin pointed out.

He explained that the allocation of the funds to the various industries needing financing will be done by the finance ministry, upon approval by the President.

Ongpin, at the same time, said that an inter-agency committee is now working out the guidelines on the liberalization of import licensing. The liberalization of import licensing and tariff reforms are among the World Bank's recommendations on the country's industrialization thrust.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT TO BORROW $75 MILLION FROM JAPAN

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Aug 80 p 10

/Article by Samuel V. Senoren/

/Text/

THE Philippine government plans to issue next month yen-denominated bonds in Japan totalling 15 billion yen (roughly $75 million) to raise funds for government undertakings.

Proceeds of the bond flotation will be used to finance major infrastructure projects of the government.

According to finance officials, the terms of the bond issue are still to be negotiated with a group of Japanese banks.

The Japanese banks, however, are reported to have agreed to take up the bond issue on a seven-year term.

The issue is likely to be underwritten by Nomura Securities.

* * *

THE proposed bond flotation is the country's third attempt to tap Japanese funds under the scheme.

In 1977 and 1978, similar yen-denominated bonds were successfully issued by the Philippines in Japan.

Both issues were also in amounts of 15 billion yen each. The first bond float in 1977 was made by the private sector while that in 1978 was a public issue.

MEANWHILE, securities underwritten by local investment houses during the second quarter of 1980 reached P361.7 million or nearly equal to the first quarter volume, according to the Central Bank.

The CB said the bulk of securities underwritten (96 percent) were money market instruments while only four percent were shares of stocks. A total of P221.6 million or 61.3 percent were new issues and P140.1 million or 38.7 percent were additional issues.

Of the underwritings done during the quarter P310.1 million or 85.7 percent were on guaranteed basis; P48.2 million or 13.3 percent on best efforts basis; and P3.4 million or 1 percent on stand-by basis. The total underwriting volume of P361.7 million was negotiated by private placements.

By industry of issuer, manufacturing issues amounted to P127.5 million or 35.3 percent of total underwritten securities; mining, P59.5 million or 16.5 percent; commerce and trade, P46.8 million or 12.9 percent; financial institutions, P44.1 million or 12.2 percent; construction and real estate, P43.9 million or 12.1 percent; service, communications and others, P39.9 million or 11 percent.

CSO: 4220

HERDIS ANNOUNCES JOINT FERROCHROME PROJECT

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Aug 80 p 10

[Article by Rosario A. Liquicig]

[Text]

THE Herdis Group is putting up a P421-million ferrochrome plant in joint venture with Voest Alpine, an Austrian firm. Construction timetable hasn't been finalized yet.

The plant, which will be set up at Tagaloan, Misamis Oriental, will turn out 52,000 metric tons of ferrochrome annually. The entire output will be exported.

Ferrochrome is an alloy of iron and chromium used in the production of hard steel.

Board of Investments Gov Federico Borromeo said in a briefing yesterday that the project will be financed entirely by Voest Alpine, which will own 51 percent of the project's equity.

Aside from the financing aspect, the Austrian company will also provide the necessary technology as well as handle the marketing of the plant's output in countries such as the United States, Japan, and Australia

The ferrochrome project was approved early this week by the BOI under the export incentives act (RA 6135).

According to Voest Alpine, chrome ore, the basic raw material for the project, will be sourced from Acoje Mining which is also located in Misamis Oriental.

In the same briefing Borromeo also said that Austroplan, another Austrian company which was commissioned by the government to study the indigenous raw materials for the country's integrated steel mill plant, has completed its field study.

The firm has prepared samples of raw materials for testing at laboratories in Austria. According to Borromeo, Austroplan may be able to complete its technical study on the country's raw materials for the steel plant by end-October or early November.

The Austrian firm was tapped by the government to study the indigenous raw materials that may be needed by the steel plant.

CSO: 4220

JULY INVESTMENT FIGURES GIVEN

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 24 Jul 80 p 8

[Article by Joy de Los Reyes]

[Text] Investors poured a record P772.1 million in fresh funds into new and old businesses last month either to finance additional capital requirements or simply capitalize new companies.

The bulk of the new investments was used to finance continued operations of existing establishments which have been encountering liquidity problems due to rising cost of production and a constricted market demand.

The July investments boosted corporate investments to P3.1 billion during the first seven months of this year. The level compares favorably with the P2 billion recorded investments during the same period last year, Securities and Exchange Commission data show.

In the previous months, investments broke the P500 million level only in February at P577.9 million. In January, the investment level was placed at P282.2 million; March, P426.8 million; April, P330.3 million; May, P350.6 million; and in June, P364.1 million.

Of the July investments, P608.2 million or about 79 percent was in the form of additional capital infusion into already existing enterprises. Initial capitalization of 653 newly-organized corporations and partnerships stood at P163.9 million. This brings to P2.22 billion the seven-month total investments earmarked for expansion of operating enterprises or up by P1 billion from last year.

Initial capitalization of 653 corporations and partnerships registered in July amounted to P163.9 million, for a total of P886.9 million, also up by P22.3 million from the January-July figure in 1979.

The capital intensive financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector had the biggest share of the new investments with P90.7 million distributed among 101 new firms. The manufacturing industry had the second biggest share of P13.7 million distributed among 99 new firms.

The other industries and their respective shares follow: mining and quarrying, P13.3 million; agriculture, fishery and forestry, P10.7 million; wholesale and retail trade, P12 million; construction, P4.3 million; transportation, storage and communications, P11.8 million; and community, social and personal services, P7.5 million.

Metro-Manila remained the most preferred base for launching new business with 415 firms capitalized at P140.8 million having their principal office located in the region.

Foreign investors were represented in 57 firms. By nationality, the Chinese were the most active with investments in 21 firms. Their equity participation, however, amounted to just P765,000, second only to the Japanese who invested P1 million in July.

CSO: 4220

MORO LIBERATION FRONT LEADER INTERVIEWED

CF240720 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 20 Aug 80 p 6

[Interview with Nur Mesouri, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front in the southern Philippines by AL-KHALIJ correspondent Shakir al-Jawhari during the former's "recent visit to Kuwait"--date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: What are the latest developments in the Philippines?

Answer: There are many disturbances and a great deal of unrest in the Philippines. There is war everywhere--in the south, the north, the east and the west. The government is facing three insurgencies at the same time. In the south, there is the Moro Liberation Front, which represents the Moro people's revolution in that part of the country. In the center and in the north the government is facing a communist movement whose military faction is represented by the new people's army. This army has captured several areas through the force of arms and the people's support.

In the cities, the government is facing an alliance that includes democratic forces and religious sects, foremost among which is the Catholic sect. This alliance has formed a peaceful organization in the cities whose goal is to change Marcos' military regime. Thus the government is isolated from the people. A sudden change in the country to change this situation and achieve stability is therefore likely.

Question: What are the factors that are making the Philippine people in general and Philippine Muslims in particular rise against the government?

Answer: There are many factors involved in the Philippine people's rebellion. The communists complain of increasing economic exploitation. Moreover, they believe that the Philippine Government is a client of the U.S. imperialism, that there is no freedom or justice and that people are arrested for no clear reason. They are fighting because they oppose Marcos' dictatorship and seek to change the regime so that they themselves can seize power.

As for the Liberal Democrats, they believe that there is no freedom in the country. They want to change Marcos' dictatorial regime to bring about freedom and democracy. Many of them are persecuted by the government.

Some have been imprisoned for long periods, while others have had their property expropriated by the government and have come to believe that there can be no freedom in the country unless Marcos' regime is changed.

The struggle of the liberal and communist movements is growing stronger daily. Therefore, the government cannot concentrate its counteroffensive on the Muslim insurgency in the south, which is getting stronger every day. The fighting in Moro areas has now spread to 20 rural districts as well as to some towns.

Question: What form of state do you want to establish? Do you want it to be Muslim, like other Muslim countries, or do you want it to be patterned on the Iranian model?

Answer: What is required, above all, is that we liberate our land and win freedom for our people. As for the system which the Moro Muslims want, we have set up an Islamic parliament that is currently formulating a system compatible with Islam. It will also draft a constitution which the country will adopt after independence. The final touches in the basic provisions of the system that will be applied in our country will be placed by the people when Muslim territory is defined.

Question: When do you expect to be able to win your independence?

Answer: It is not possible at present to say how much time we need to win independence. God willing, the Moro people will continue their revolution until they achieve independence. We believe that the factors exist to enable us to win. The Philippine Government is facing critical political crises in the north and the center. Our revolution is becoming stronger daily and is gaining the support of other countries. We believe our victory is inevitable, especially as the era of imperialism is on the decline.

Question: What support and assistance do you receive from Arab and Muslim countries?

Answer: We receive modest assistance from Muslim governments. However, we believe that Muslims everywhere fully support us, including the peoples of those Mus' m countries whose governments support the Philippine Government. we have won the Muslims' support because our cause is just.

Question: There is a belief prevalent among world public opinion that the Philippine revolution has a special relationship with Libya. How true is this"

Answer: We have very good relations with Libya. This is because revolutionary Libya and the Libyan people believe in the justice of our cause. The 1 September Revolution led by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi supports all oppressed peoples and particularly Muslim peoples, such as the Moro people in the southern Philippines.

Question: Thanks to Libyan mediation, you reached an agreement a few years ago with President Marcos on the formula for a peaceful solution. What has become of that agreement?

Answer: First, I should explain that the Tripoli agreement concluded in December 1976 as a result of negotiations between us and the Philippine Government was the outcome of mediation by a ministerial committee formed by the Islamic Conference Organization.

However, the Philippine Government did not abide by the agreement. It used it to bring about a cease-fire, reorganize its armed forces, find out the secrets of the Moro Liberation Front and its commands, capture strategic military positions, and attempt to establish contact with the people so as to create confusion. Under the guise of a cease-fire, a terrorist organization of 30,000 Christian fighters who had immigrated from the north and center of the country was set up. This organization was formed following the visit of Gen (Romeo Espino), the commander in chief of the Philippine Army, to Israel immediately after the agreement was signed. This is conclusive proof that the Philippine Government was not sincere. Indeed, it began new preparations to continue its campaign to liquidate the Muslims in the south.

Question: In light of this, how do you see the future, and what will you do to face the situation?

Answer: The fighting is spreading more than ever. President Marcos admitted this in his recent speech in Hawaii when he said that he is preparing about 200,000 fighters, including 80,000 from the regular army and 60,000 from the national police force, to strike at the Muslims in the south. These large forces will not prevent a Muslim victory because our fighters are gaining military experience from the war and are gradually obtaining assistance from other countries. Muslims everywhere should take measures to save their Muslim brothers who are facing a campaign of extermination launched by the criminal government.

As for the Tripoli agreement, the Philippine Government has officially declared it null and void. The Islamic conference has adopted many resolutions calling on the Philippine Government to embark on peaceful negotiations with the Moro Liberation Front so as to implement the Tripoli agreement. However, all such attempts failed because the Philippine Government was not interested in resolving this issue as it had planned to wipe out the Muslims and control their territory forever.

With the Philippine Government's abandoning its commitment to the Tripoli agreement there is no basis for peaceful negotiations between us. There is no longer a basis for a peaceful solution to this problem. Therefore, the front's leadership, supported by the Moro people, insists on its principal demand, namely, the right of the Moro people to self-determination and independence.

We appeal to Muslim peoples in particular to recognize our cause and stand by us. We also call on the Islamic conference and its members to implement

the resolutions adopted in Fez and Islamabad on referring this issue to the United Nations, the Organization of Nonalined States, the OAU and the Arab League, and to implement the resolutions on extending material and humanitarian assistance to the Moro Liberation Front.

Question: What are the aims of your current tour of several Arab states?

Answer: We are explaining the situation in southern Philippines to the Muslim people.

Question: As representatives of a Muslim movement, how do you view the action of the Afghan tribes against the Kabul government? What is your attitude toward these actions?

Answer: We believe that the solution of the Afghan people is primarily the responsibility of the Afghan people. Muslims should support what the Afghan people decide to do to liberate themselves from tyranny. Our stand is that no state, especially the great powers, should interfere in Afghanistan's affairs because this will complicate the issue. Therefore, we say that is is the Afghan people who should have the final word.

Question: Whom do you represent? God's Islam or U.S. Islam?

Answer: There is only one Islam and that is God's Islam.

CSO: 4402

GOVERNMENT, BUSINESSES TIGHTEN SECURITY

OW240757 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 24 Aug 80 OW

[Text] Manila, Aug. 24 (AFP)--Philippine Government and commercial establishments are tightening their security following Friday's rash of bombings which hit nine buildings, among them four banks.

Additional patrol units have been fielded in the posh Makati commercial district here as military and police authorities press their hunt for the bombers.

At least three commercial establishments received bomb threat calls yesterday from people claiming to be members of the "April Six Liberation Movement," but no actual explosions occurred, police said.

Last Friday, a few hours after nine explosions rocked various buildings in metro Manila, a group called the April 6 Liberation Movement issued a manifesto and claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The group claims to be a political force out to end the eight-year martial law administration of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Hit last Friday were the First National City Bank, the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, Metro Bank, the Metro Manila Commission, the National Housing Authority, the Social Security System, the Ali Mall Department Store, the Philam Life Insurance Building and the executive suite in front of the United States Embassy here.

In their manifesto, the April 6 group, named after an opposition noise barrage on the eve of the 1978 interim national assembly elections, said "This is only the beginning."

Saying they were "among millions of nameless and faceless residents of metro Manila who are indignant and angry, they added that they "shall not stop until the Filipino people shall have finally liberated themselves from the tentacles of the Marcos' dictatorship."

CSO: 4220

FORMER MNLF MAN NAMED TO GOVERNMENT POST

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 Aug 80 pp 1, 6

/Text/

A **RANKING** foreign-trained intelligence officer of the Moro National Liberation Front who has returned to the folds of the law was appointed yesterday by President Marcos as member of the Sanggunlang Pampook of Region 9.

The President signed the appointment papers of Rasul Abdullah, the No. 2 man in the intelligence hierarchy of the MNLF, during the latter's call on the President in Malacanang.

Rasul becomes the second MNLF official to be appointed by the President in the autonomous government in the south.

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EARLIER appointed by the President as member of the standing committee of the Sanggunlang Pampook in Region 12 is Amelil Malaguiok alias Commander Ronnie.

Rasul, who took up optometry at the Manila Central University, surrendered to a Philippine Navy ship patrolling in international waters in the south recently.

He was instrumental in the surrender last Friday of some 300 MNLF rebels in Tawi-tawi, headed by Commander Frank (Hadji Ismael), the zone commander.

WITH RASUL during his call on the President were his two co-surrenderers — Amilkadra Abdullah, a foreign-trained rebel like Rasul, and Alih Bidin Diki, a security guard at the MNLF central base in Japmiras Sabah.

Asked why they decided to return to the folds of the law, Rasul, a B.S.E. graduate of the Norte Dame College in Jolo, said that they detested Nur Misuari for his penchant for violence, for spending MNLF funds on himself and his family instead of on the cause, and his discriminatory practices by favoring Tausugs over the Samals.

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TO SHOW his sincerity, Rasul brought with him to Malacanang his wife Sururul-Ain and his children, Ayesha 10, Nik-Othman 8, and Jihada 3. He also brought his parents, Hadji and Mrs. Derwis Abdullah and his parents-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Mandutong Wingo.

When he surrendered from a speedboat in the high seas, Rasul had with him some important MNLF documents, including the

organization's five-year plan, minutes of the Central Committee meetings and the Constitution of the Bangsa Moro Republic which Nur Misuari intends to put up.

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RASUL was in Sabah for two years. He also trained in Libya for more than one year, taking up staff courses in intelligence, counter-intelligence and other specialized fields.

They were accompanied by Rear Adm. Romulo M. Espaldon, commissioner on Islamic affairs and chief of the South Command.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT PROJECTS TO PROVIDE JOBS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Aug 80 pp 1, 6

/Article by Joy de Los Reyes/

/Text/ Seven of the 11 major industrial projects being pushed by the government will directly employ 21,000 workers when they start operating in 1985.

Projects listed in the investments priorities plan of the Board of Investments for 1980 are expected to open additional jobs for 41,000 workers.

Companies that were organized from 1968 to 1978 under the government's investments incentives scheme have provided jobs for more than 208 workers.

These were pointed out yesterday by the BOI in its study on the employment-generating potentials of BOI-registered projects even as it stressed that all industrialization policies including investment priorities programs open employment opportunities.

BOI prepared the study, apparently to answer criticisms from the private sector that the government-backed 11 major industrial projects costing $6 billion do not answer the pressing demand for employment.

In the study BOI claimed that "an industrial program covering a broad range of industries would necessarily involve the setting up, at one end, of capital-intensive projects where capital labor substitution is limited, and, at the other end, of highly labor-intensive projects whose viability depends on the use of lower prices (as against capital) labor." Between the two extremes are projects where capital-labor substitution is more flexible, it added.

To encourage the use of more labor-intensive technologies, the following incentives, BOI said, are granted:

Additional deduction from taxable income of one half of the value of labor training expenses.

Additional deduction from taxable income of the direct labor cost used in the manufacture of export products.

Of the capital-intensive 11 projects, the integrated steel mill has the highest projected employment at 10,000 workers. The phosphatic fertilizer plant and the heavy machineries industries follow with 3,931 and 3,320 workers, respectively. The diesel engine program will employ 1,710 workers and the aluminum smelter, 1,000 workers, while the petrochemical complex and the copper smelter plant will employ around 600 workers each.

CSO: 4220

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Aug 80 p 13

/Article by Sonia L. Atabug/

/Text/ Filipino college graduates seldom get employment within the year after graduation and even those who get hired do not utilize their skills and training.

A case study made by Prof Josefina O. Santamaria of De La Salle University unravelled this fact.

Findings of the educator also indicated that out of 10,000 college graduates annually, only about 40 percent were able to land jobs upon graduation.

The study also disclosed an excess of some 46,000 people in overcrowded occupations and a severe shortage in others in a seven-year projection.

She attributed the problem to imbalanced course offering structure of private higher education, but hastened to add that "there may have been another contributory factor to the 'mismatch'."

"Schools were actually responding to market demand and preference since the status and prestige factor that higher education led to white collar jobs and among youth and parents was very strong than to content or the employment potential of training," she opined.

In explaining why such wrong notion exists, she cited the conclusion of a Presidential Commission survey which said that the "mismatch" was due to lack of guidance and counselling and the dearth of information on the job market that gives indications of job alternatives and incentive scales for each job.

To narrow the "mismatch" between the country's educational output and the manpower requirements of the economy, a system of career guidance and counselling system has been recommended to become a part of the educational system.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has issued a circular making homeroom guidance compulsory for all elementary and secondary schools.

Santamaria said the order enabled students to be provided with career guidance and counselling.

Three years ago such subject was the topic of an international conference workshop held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Sponsored by De La Salle University, Asia Foundation of the Philippines and the Philippine Vocational Guidance Association, the gathering was attended by participants from Malaysia, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, India and the Philippines.

Nominated as president of the Asian Regional Association for Vocational and Educational Guidance was Prof. Santamaria who was the first woman to hold the position.

From the time she acted as head of the association in 1977, the ARAGEV secretariat was taken over by the Philippine Vocational Guidance Association and its leadership assumed by Filipinos.

CSO: 4220

TEN YEAR ALCOGAS EARNINGS FORECAST

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Aug 80 p 21

/Text/ The Philippine alcogas program is expected to generate foreign exchange earnings of about $470 million over a 10-year period when it is fully implemented.

According to Marianito Villanueva, director of the Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center in Baybay, Leyte, the program will also provide employment to at least 340,000 people.

The conditions in the country, he said, make it an ideal site for an alcohol production program because of the well identified areas suited to the cultivation of sugarcane, the principal source of alcohol in the tropics, and other potential sources of alcohol feedstock.

Villanueva said the alcohol requirement for the alcogas program starting from 22 million liters in 1980 is projected to reach 925 million liters by 1988.

The crop scientist explained that based on the target volume of alcohol needed by the country for its alcogas program, the present areas of cultivation for sugarcane have to be expanded by 37 percent, for cassava by 75 percent and for sweet potato by 54 percent.

Villanueva also predicted that more major research breakthroughs on the use of root crops for alcohol production are expected to be made in the immediate future.

He based his optimism on the extensive support being given by the government to the production of pure alcohol for use in alcohol-gasoline mixtures (alcogas) or in purely non-oil fuels.

Thus far, Villanueva said, breakthroughs have been achieved in terms of dramatic increases in yield levels of sweet potato and cassava using varieties and cultural management techniques developed by the PRCRTC. The Center, which was created by President Marcos in 1977, is based at the Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCA) in Baybay.

"The biggest potential for root crops as raw materials for alcohol production lies in their ability to produce high yields even under adverse growing conditions," he said.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

IMPORTS FROM JAPAN--Japan's exports to the Philippines during the first six months reached $158.290 million according to Japan's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI). The amount has already exceeded by $21.740 million the $137.550 million in exports realized in 1979, it said. The trade figures were quoted by Japan's Economic Journal, which has set up a data bank bureau for the exchange of business information in Japan and the United States. The figures were based on the customs clearance of exports. Meanwhile, imports from the Philippines reached $37.096 million leaving a trade deficit of $123.272 million for the Philippines. (PNA). [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 12 Aug 80 p 1]

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